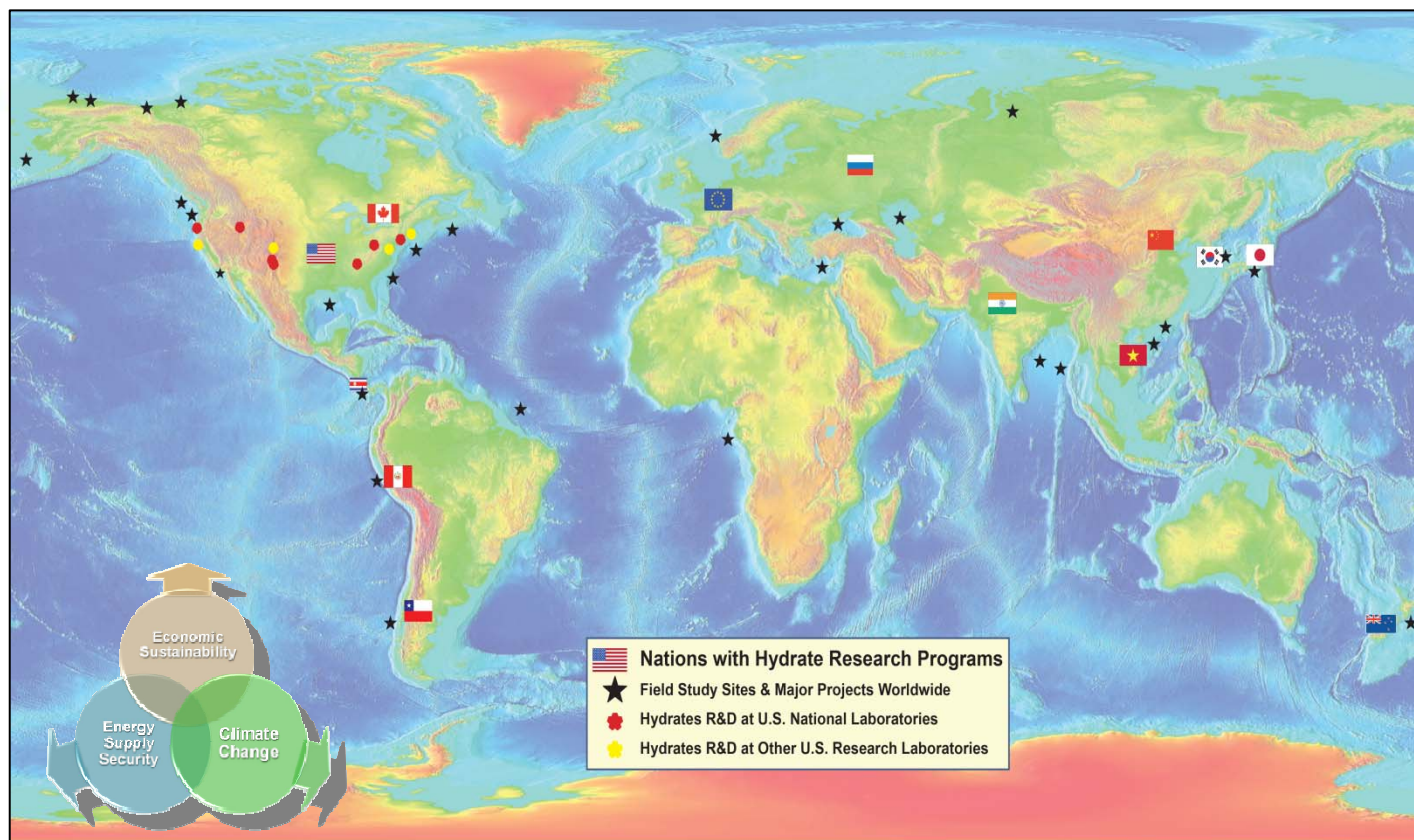




## NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY



### The Global Pursuit for Methane Hydrates: Advances in Exploration and Present Hurdles

*Kelly Rose – Methane Hydrates Field  
Studies Research Lead*



# Presentation Outline

- **The National Energy Technology Lab**
- Overview of naturally-occurring gas hydrates
  - What are gas hydrates
  - Where do they occur
  - Why is there so much interest...
- The National Methane Hydrate R&D Program
- Recent major international gas hydrates field exploration efforts
- Exploration challenges and the Program's efforts to address these key issues
  - Basic Science: Where, why, how?
  - Resources: How much?
  - G&G: Can we find them?
  - Engineering: Can we produce them?



*Coring activities at Mount Elbert gas hydrate stratigraphic test well, Milne Point, Alaska, February, 2007*



# National Energy Technology Laboratory

- DOE's national lab dedicated to fossil energy
  - Fossil fuels provide 85% of U.S. energy supply
- One lab, three research campuses
- 1,200 Federal and support-contractor employees
- Research encompasses fundamental science through technology demonstration



*Pennsylvania*



*West Virginia*



*Oregon*

# Presentation Outline

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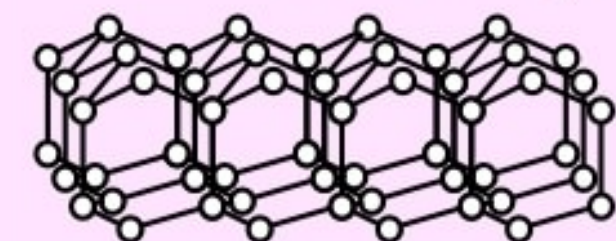


*Burning methane hydrate samples recovered during Korea's UBGH-01 Expedition 2007 (photo - KIGAM)*

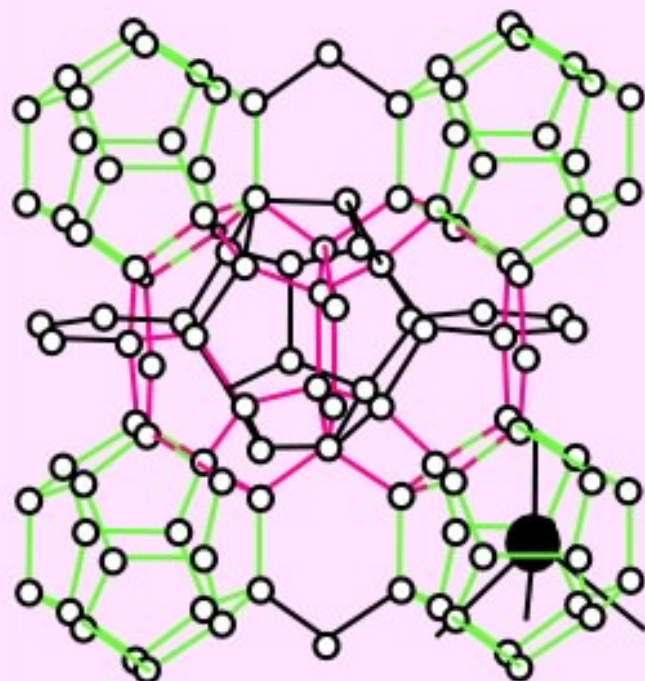


# What are gas hydrates?

## Methane Hydrate Molecular Structure



ICE



## CLATHRATE (HYDRATE)

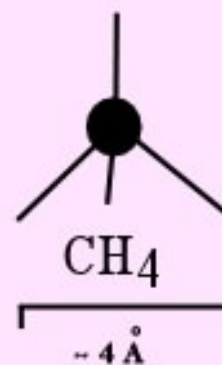
— PENTAGONAL DODECAHEDRON ( $5^{12}$ )

— TETRAKAIDECAHEDRON ( $5^{12} 6^2$ )

○ OXYGEN

● CARBON

— HYDROGEN  
BOND



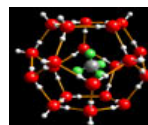
*From Naval Research Lab*



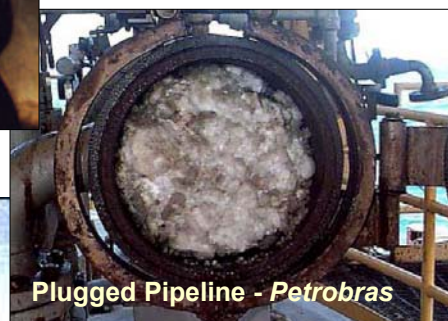
# Natural Gas Hydrates

## *Setting the Stage*

- 1800s:** Michael Faraday creates hydrates of Chlorine in the lab
- 1930s:** Hydrates of methane gas found plugging natural gas pipelines
- 1960s:** Strange production responses noted in Siberian gas fields – initial tests in Alaska
- 1982:** Massive sample recovered off Guatemala
- 1982-1992:** USDOE-USGS: document extent of MH worldwide.
- 1995:** USGS reports 320,000 tcf gas in place in US EEZ. Japan starts massive 15-year program
- 2000:** Methane Hydrate R&D Act passed – authorized for five years, calls for broad, interagency investigation of hydrate issues



Michael Faraday



Plugged Pipeline - Petrobras



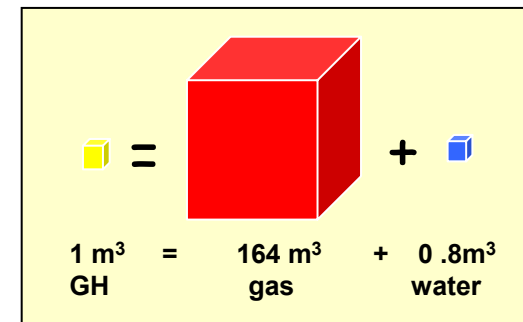
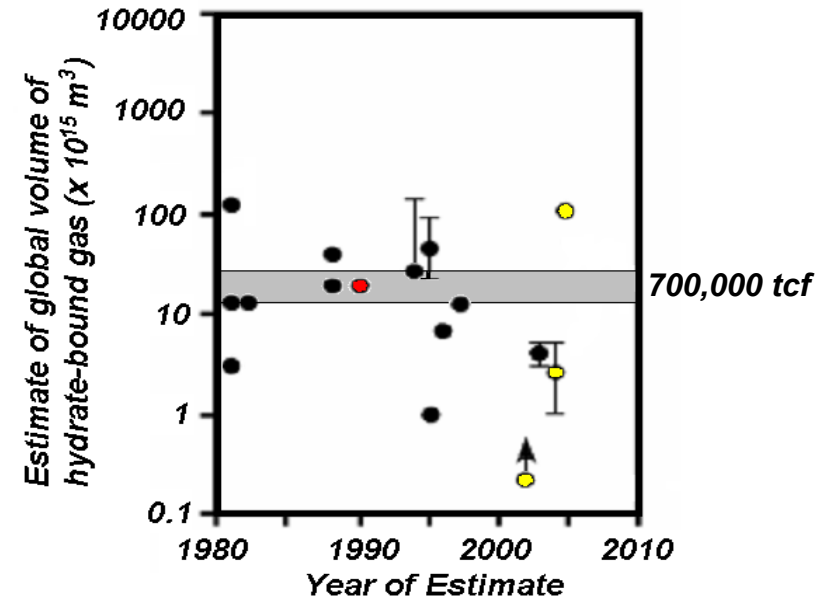
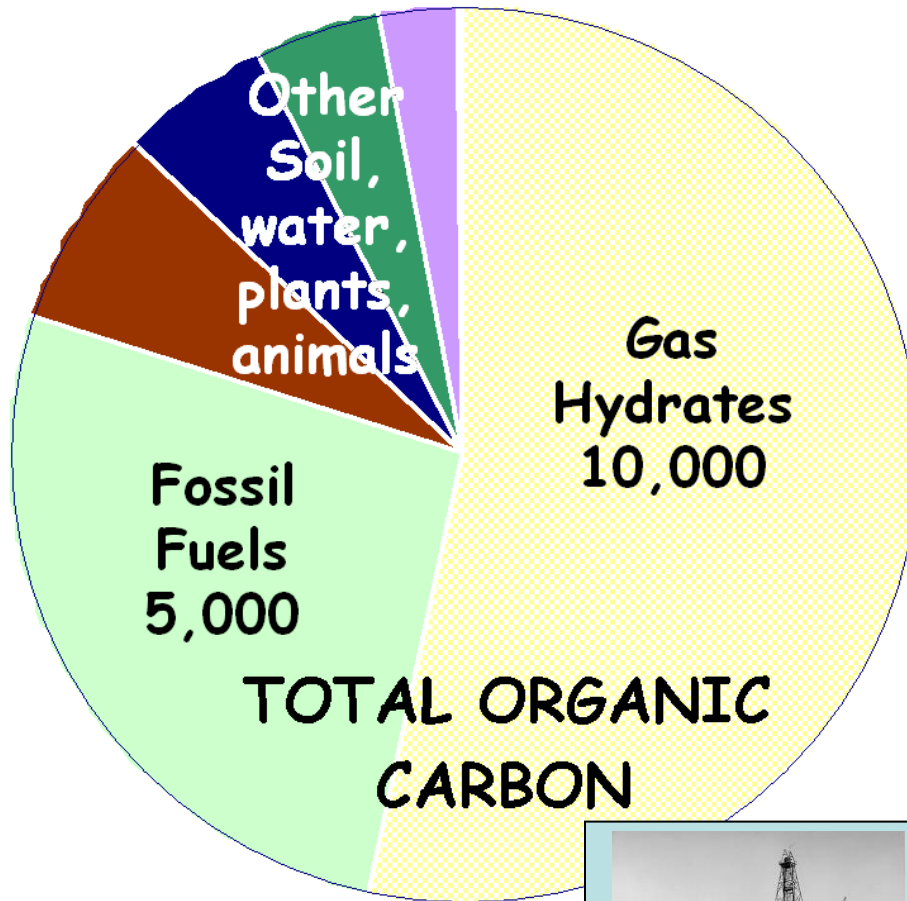
Glomar Challenger;  
Offshore Guatemala, 1982



Sample retrieved at Mallik Site  
NW Canadian Arctic, 1998

# Gas Hydrate

*An enormous global storehouse of Organic Carbon*

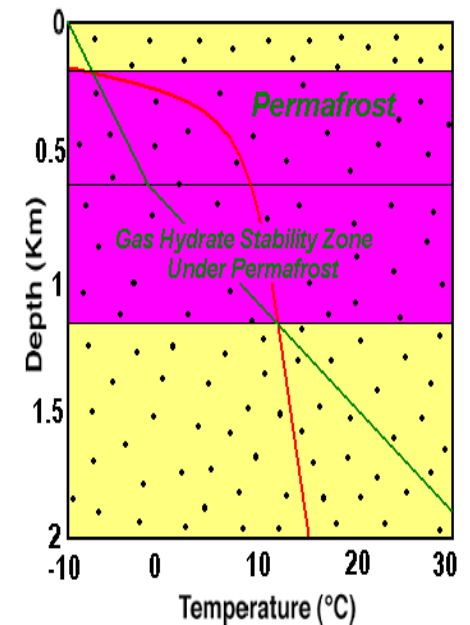
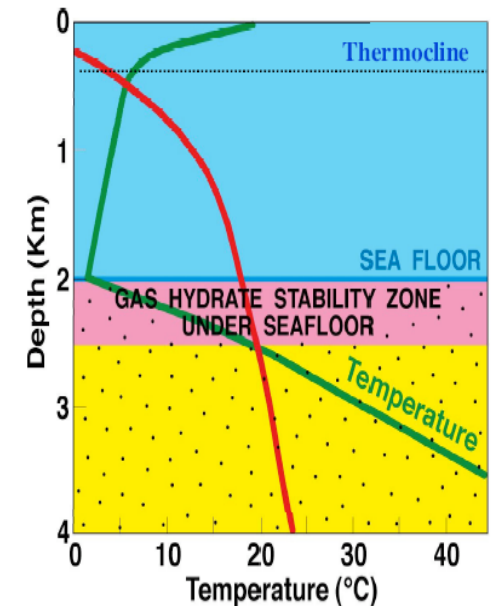
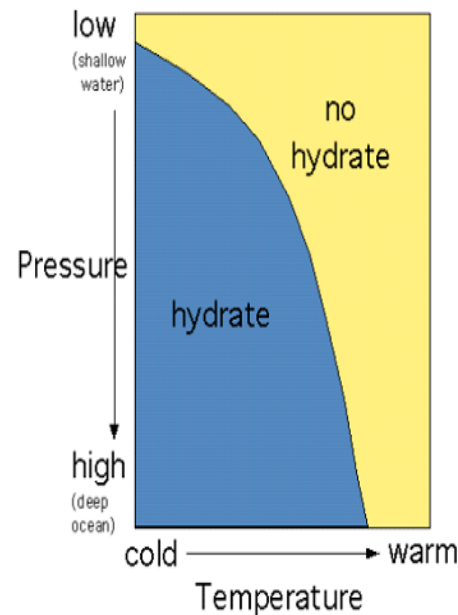




# Controls on Gas Hydrate Occurrence

## *Gas Hydrate Petroleum System*

- Formation temperature
- Formation pressure
- Pore water salinity
- Gas chemistry
- Availability of gas and water
- Gas and water migration pathways
- Presence of reservoir rocks and seals



# GAS HYDRATES IN NATURE

*Filling pores in coarse grained sand*



*Massive lenses in muds*



*Nodules*



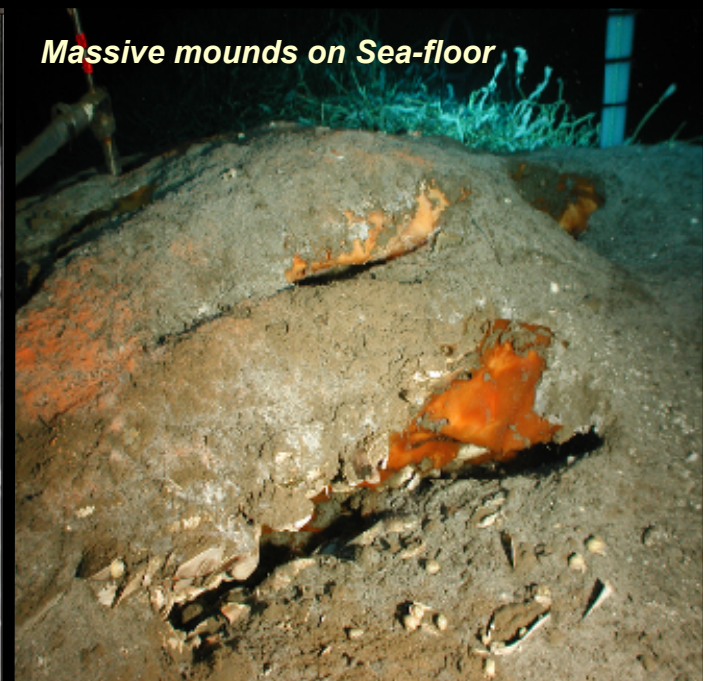
*Filling pores in fine-grained marine sands*



*Thin veins in muds*



*Massive mounds on Sea-floor*





**GH-Saturated conglomerate – NW Canada (Mallik)**



**GH-saturated turbidite – Nankai trough**



**GH-saturated fractured clays – Bay of Bengal**

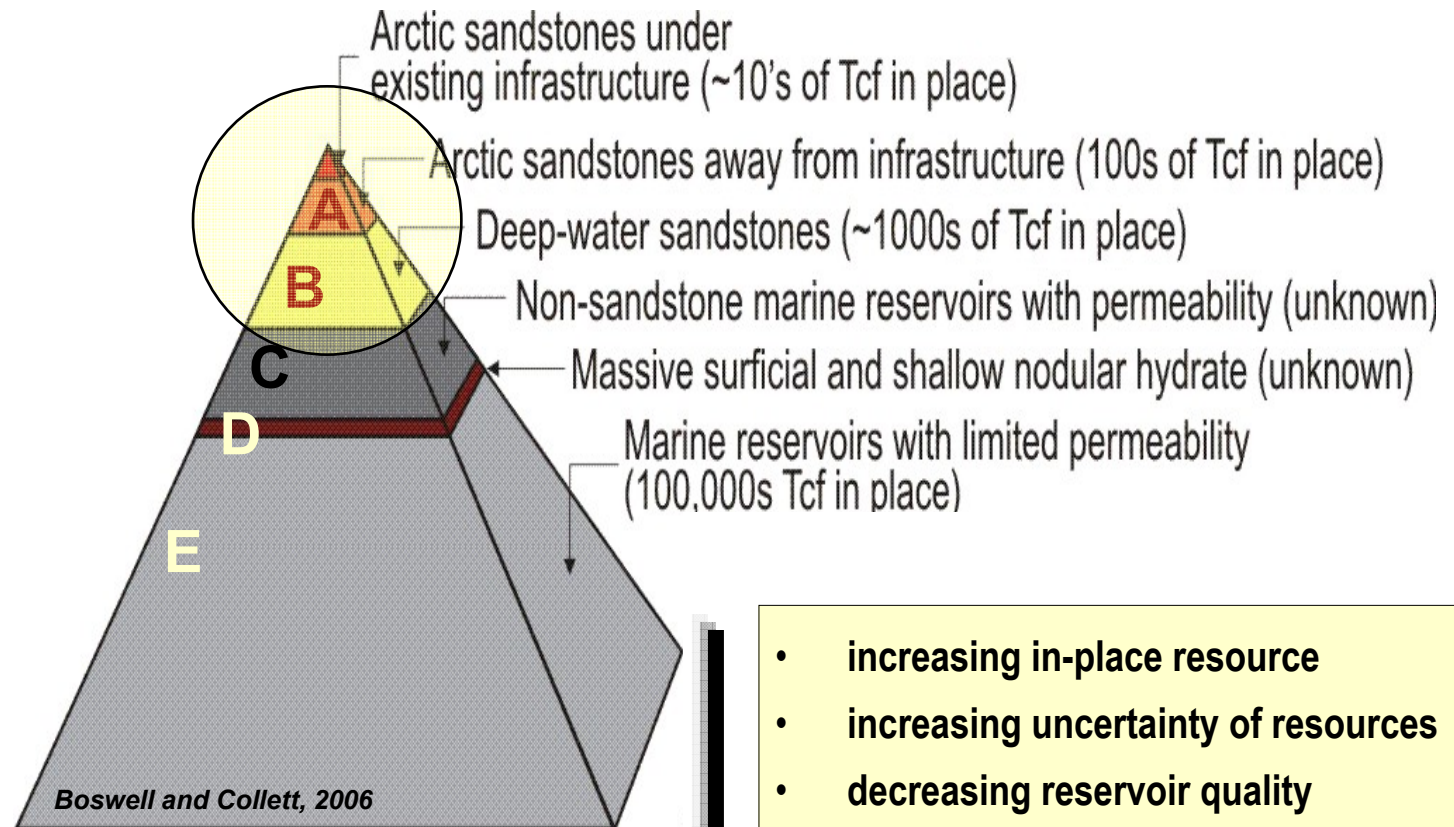


**Massive GH seafloor mound – Gulf of Mexico**



# The Gas Hydrates Resource Pyramid

## *Distribution of huge in-place resource*



### Data Sources

A: Collett, 1993; Collett, 1995

B: MMS, 2008

C: Unassessed (India, Korea expeditions)

D: Unassessed

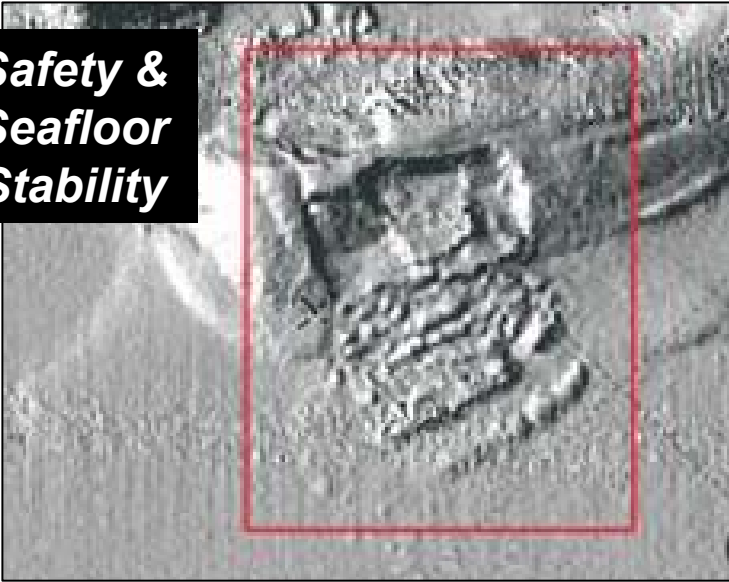
E: Collett, 1995

- increasing in-place resource
- increasing uncertainty of resources
- decreasing reservoir quality
- increasing technical challenges
- decreasing % recoverable



# Current Gas Hydrate R&D Issues

**Safety &  
Seafloor  
Stability**



**Energy  
Resource  
Potential**



*JOGMEC, NRCan, Aurora –  
Mallik 2008*

**Global  
Environment**



*NOAA – Gulf  
of Mexico*

# Presentation Outline

- The National Energy Technology Lab
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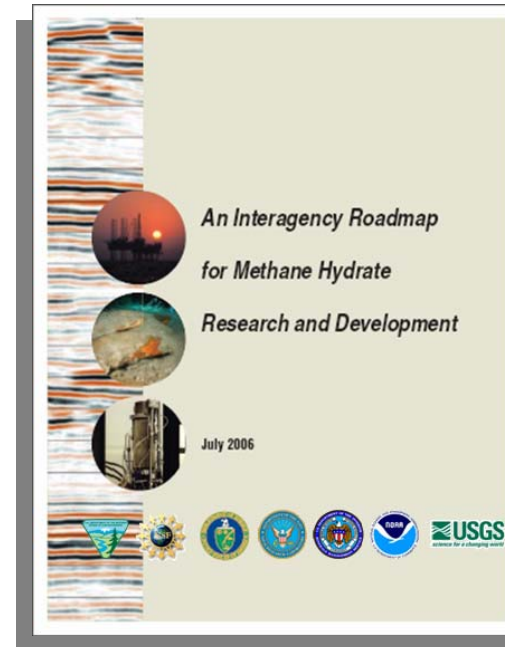
*Mount Elbert Well – Alaskan North Slope:  
February, 2007*

# The DOE National Gas Hydrate R&D Program

## *Implementing the Methane Hydrates R&D Acts of 2000 & 2005*

- **Seven collaborating federal agencies**
  - DOE-NETL led (National Labs)
  - DOI (BLM, USGS, MMS)
  - DOC (NOAA)
  - DOD (Naval Research Lab)
  - National Science Foundation
- **Program Focus & Goals**
  - realizing methane hydrates resource potential, and
  - understanding hydrate's role in the natural environment
  - supporting educational opportunities
  - international collaboration
- **Impacts**
  - Better informed ocean/climate policy
  - Potential new domestic gas resource

PUBLIC LAW 106-193—MAY 2, 2000  
METHANE HYDRATE RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2000



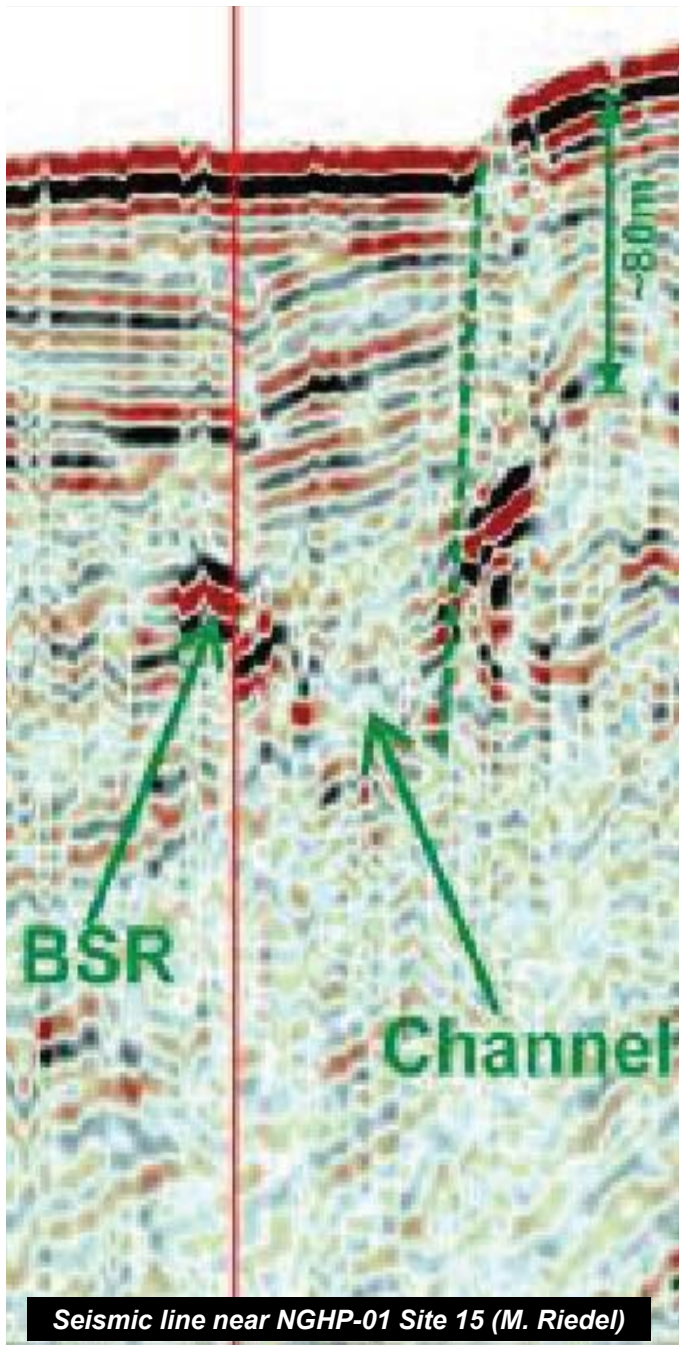
Additional information at [www.netl.doe.gov/methanehydrates](http://www.netl.doe.gov/methanehydrates)

NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY



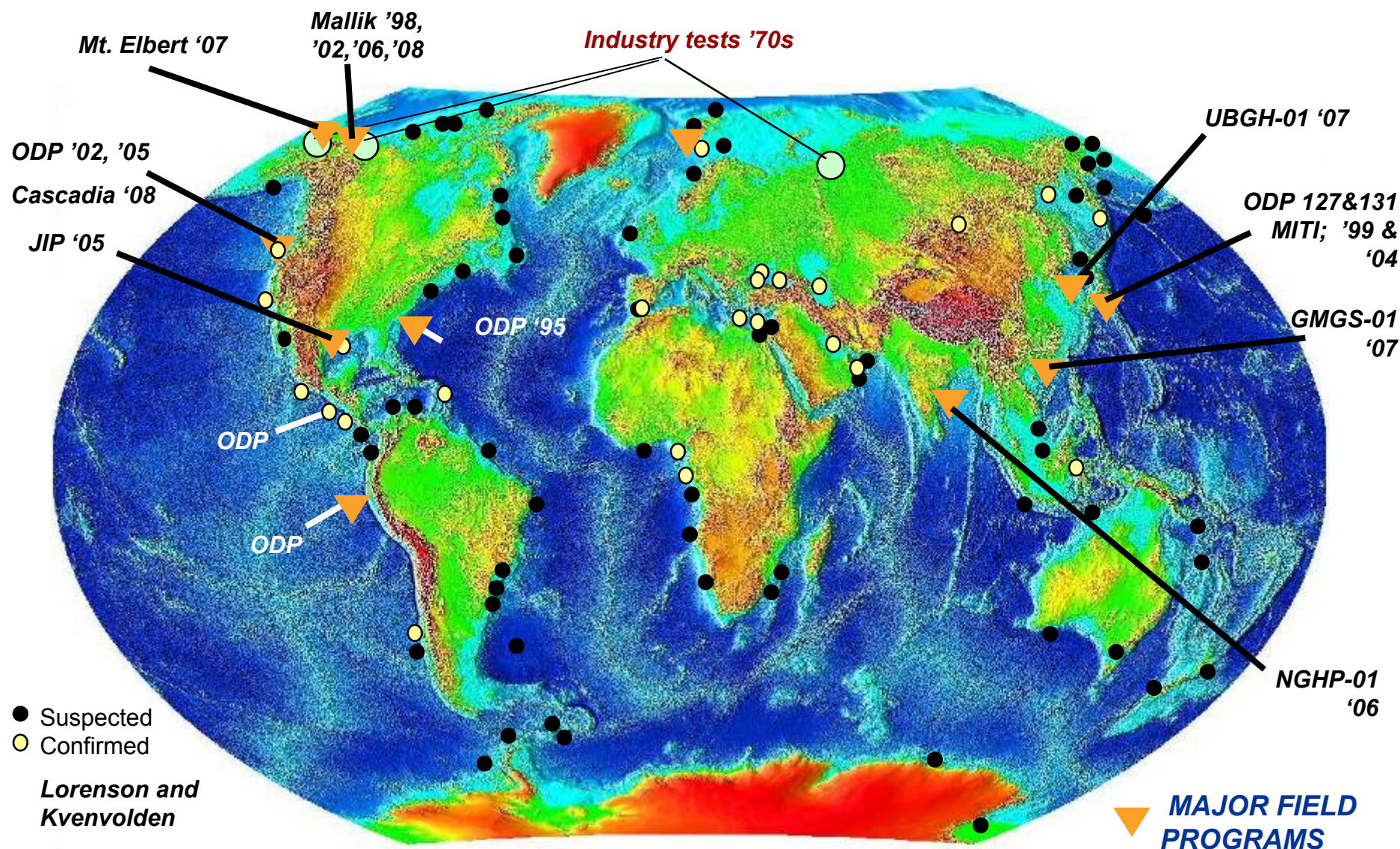
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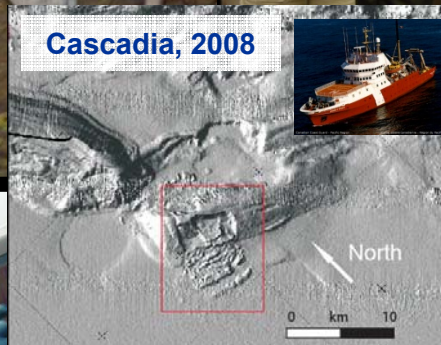


# Global Gas Hydrate R&D





# US DOE - International Collaboration





# NGHP - Expedition 1 Timeline

**Leg 1**  
**April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 16<sup>th</sup>**

KKB Coring & Transit  
Mumbai to Chennai

**KKB**

**Mumbai**

**MB**

**Leg 2**  
**May 17<sup>th</sup> - June 6<sup>th</sup>**

KGB & MB  
LWD Logging

**KGB**

**Chennai**

**Leg 3A**  
**June 7<sup>th</sup> – June 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Chennai Port Call  
KGB Coring

**Leg 3B**  
**June 26<sup>th</sup> – July 17<sup>th</sup>**  
Chennai Port Call  
Return to KGB Coring

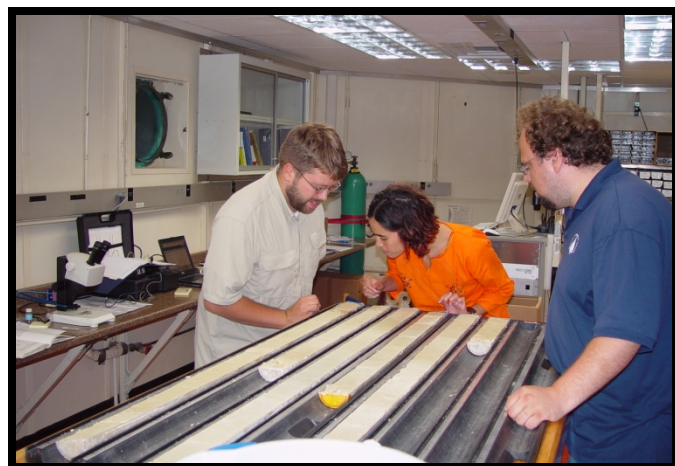
**Leg 4**  
**June 18<sup>th</sup> – August 17<sup>th</sup>**

MB, AI, & KGB Coring  
Return to Chennai

**AI**

# NGHP-01 Shipboard Laboratories

- Physical Properties Measurements
- Sedimentologic Descriptions
- Organic Geochemistry
- Inorganic Geochemistry
- Microbiology Studies





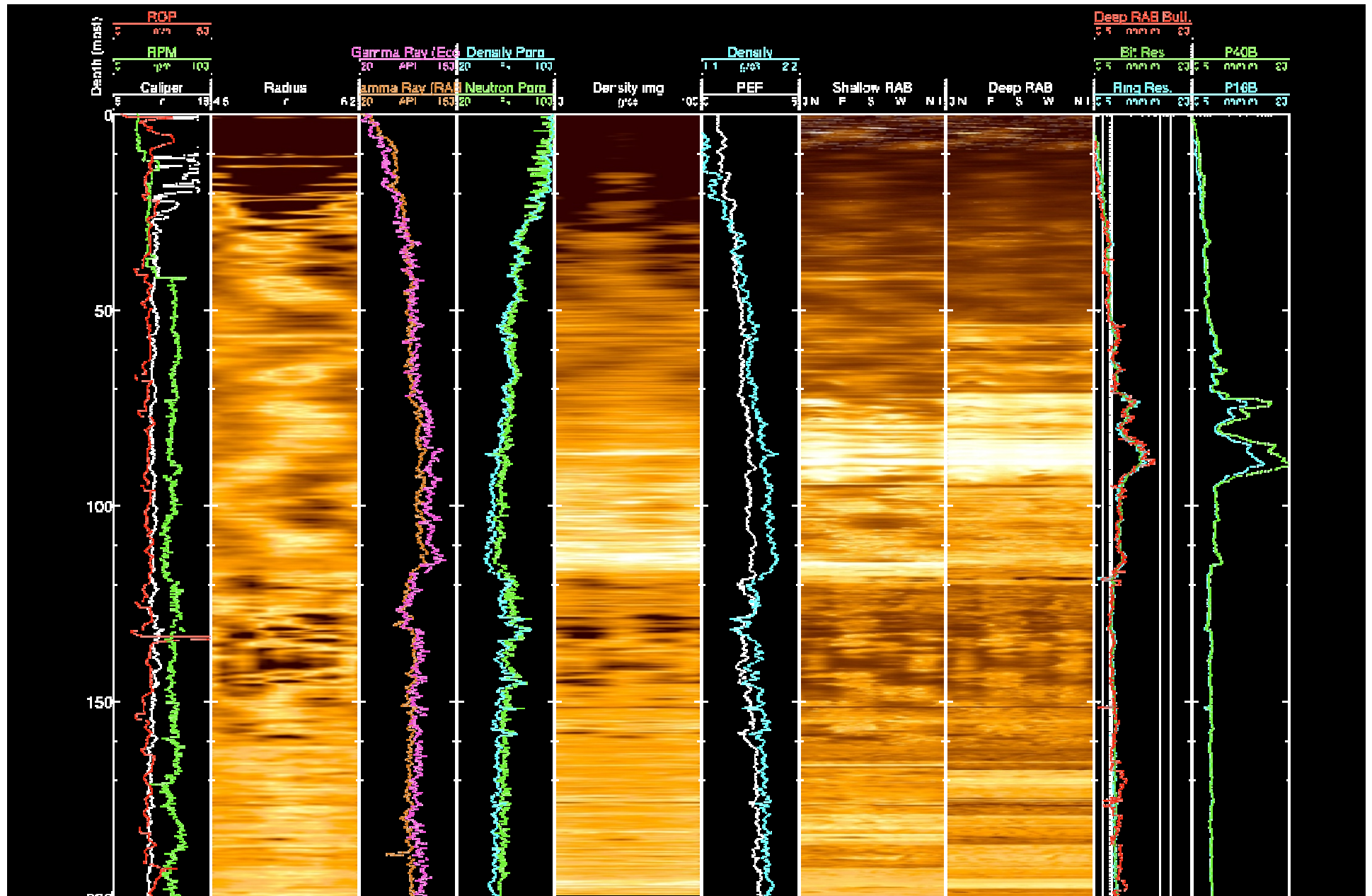
# NGHP Exp-1 Tool Deployments

- **APC: Advanced Piston Corer**
- **XCB: Extended (Rotary) Core Barrel**
- **APCT/APC3: Temperature Tool (APC coring shoe)**
- **APC-Methane Tool: TPC Sensors in APC Piston**
- **DVTP: Davis-Villinger Temperature Probe**
- **PCS: ODP Pressure Core Sampler**
- **HRC: HYACE Rotary Corer**
- **FPC: FUGRO Pressure Corer**
- **LWD/MWD: Logging/Measurement While Drilling**
- **CWL: Conventional Wireline Logging**
- **VSP: Vertical Seismic Profiling**





# LWD Data



# Physical Properties

## *Whole Rounds*

Thermal Conductivity

MSCL

Gamma density

Vp

Electrical Resistivity

Magnetic Susceptibility

## *Split Cores*

Contact electrical resistivity

Vp (double-spade technique)

Shear strengths

Mini vane shear

Torvane

Pocket penetrometer

Index

Water contents

Grain density

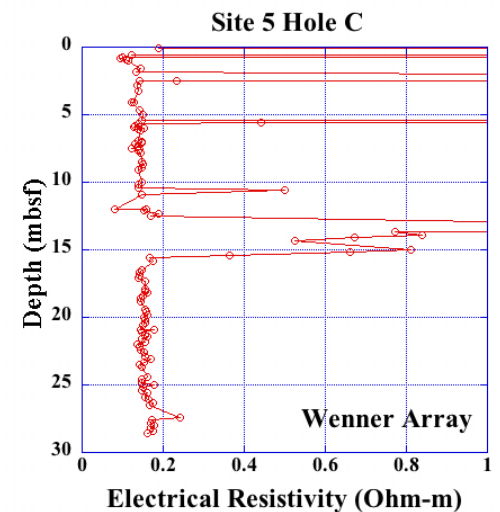
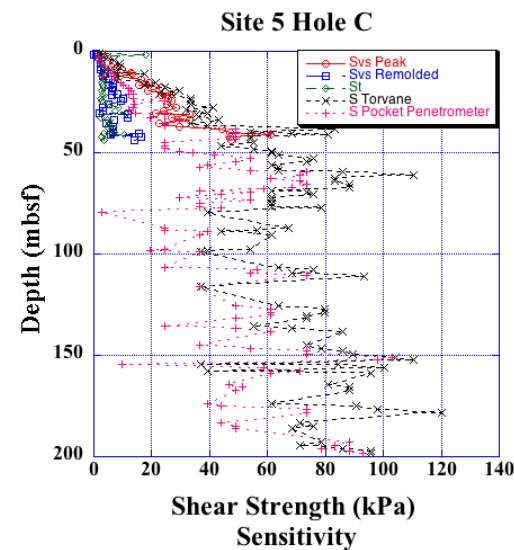
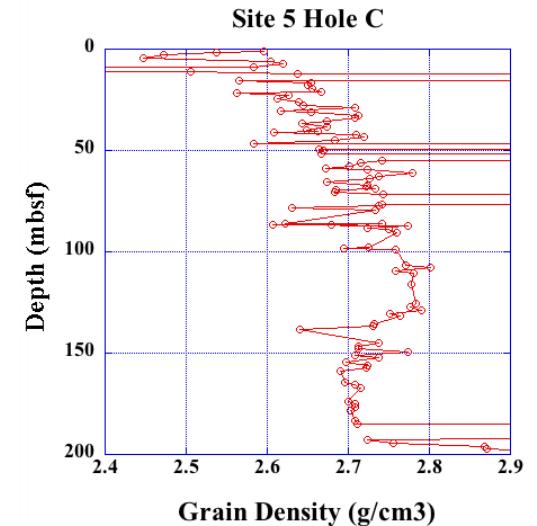
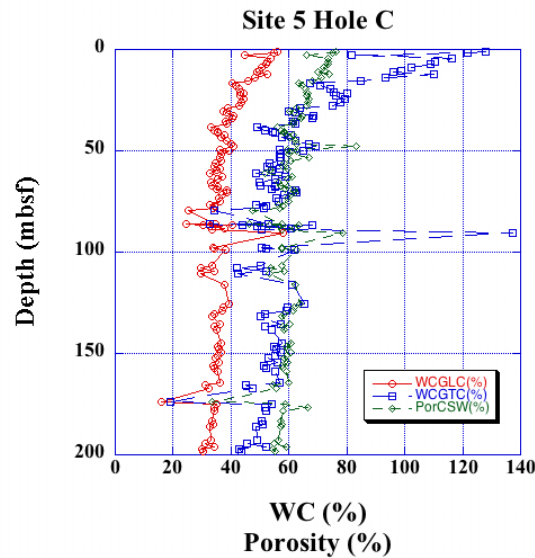
Porosity

Densities

Vertical stress

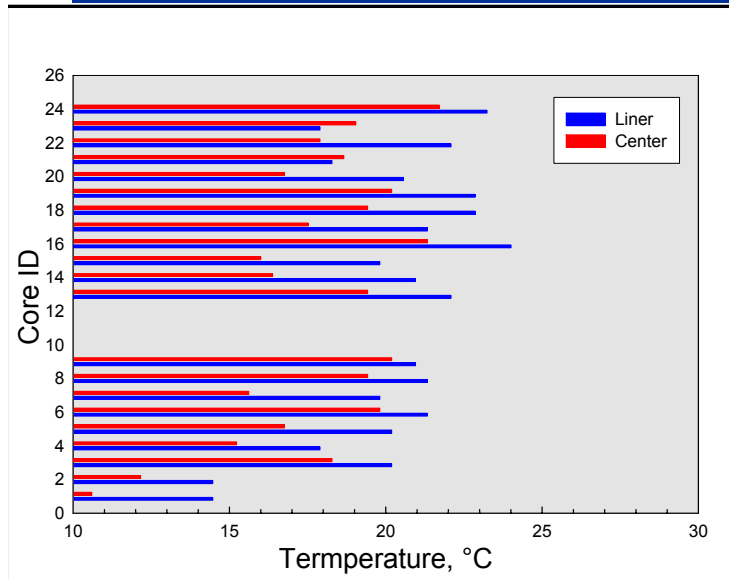
Grain size

Consol/triaxial/GHASTLI



# IR Imaging and Temperature Results

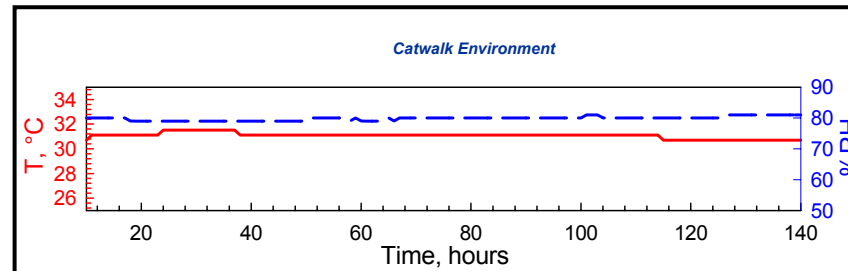
## Core End Temperatures 5C



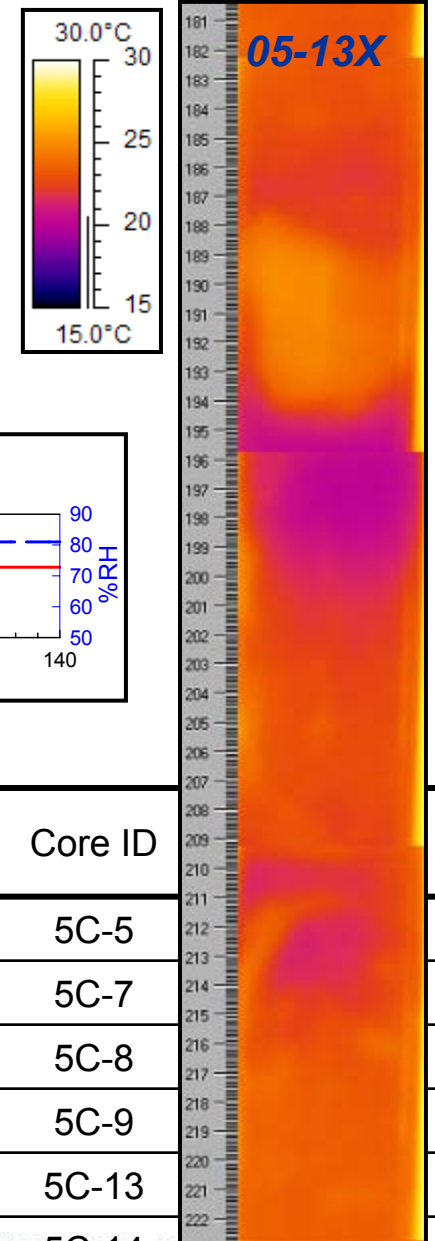
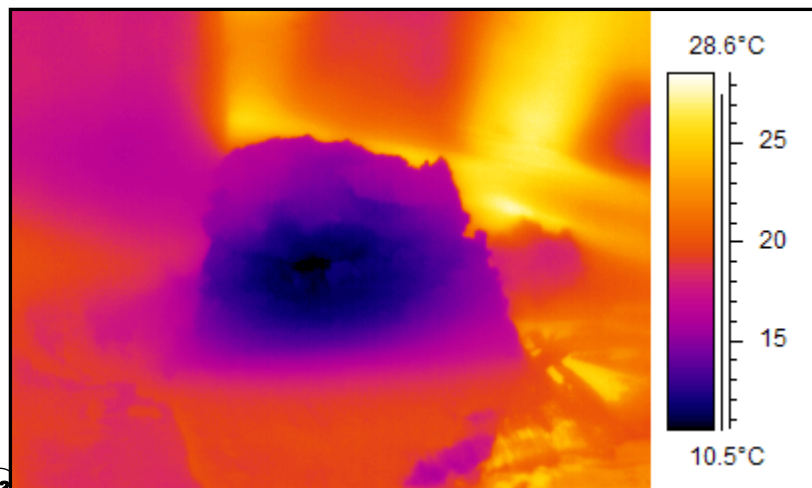
IR Hand Held Camera

## IR Track Imaging

- Number of Scans
  - 5C - 24
  - 5D - 4
- IR Anomalies
  - 1 in Core 13
  - 1 in Core 14



IR Core Analysis 5C



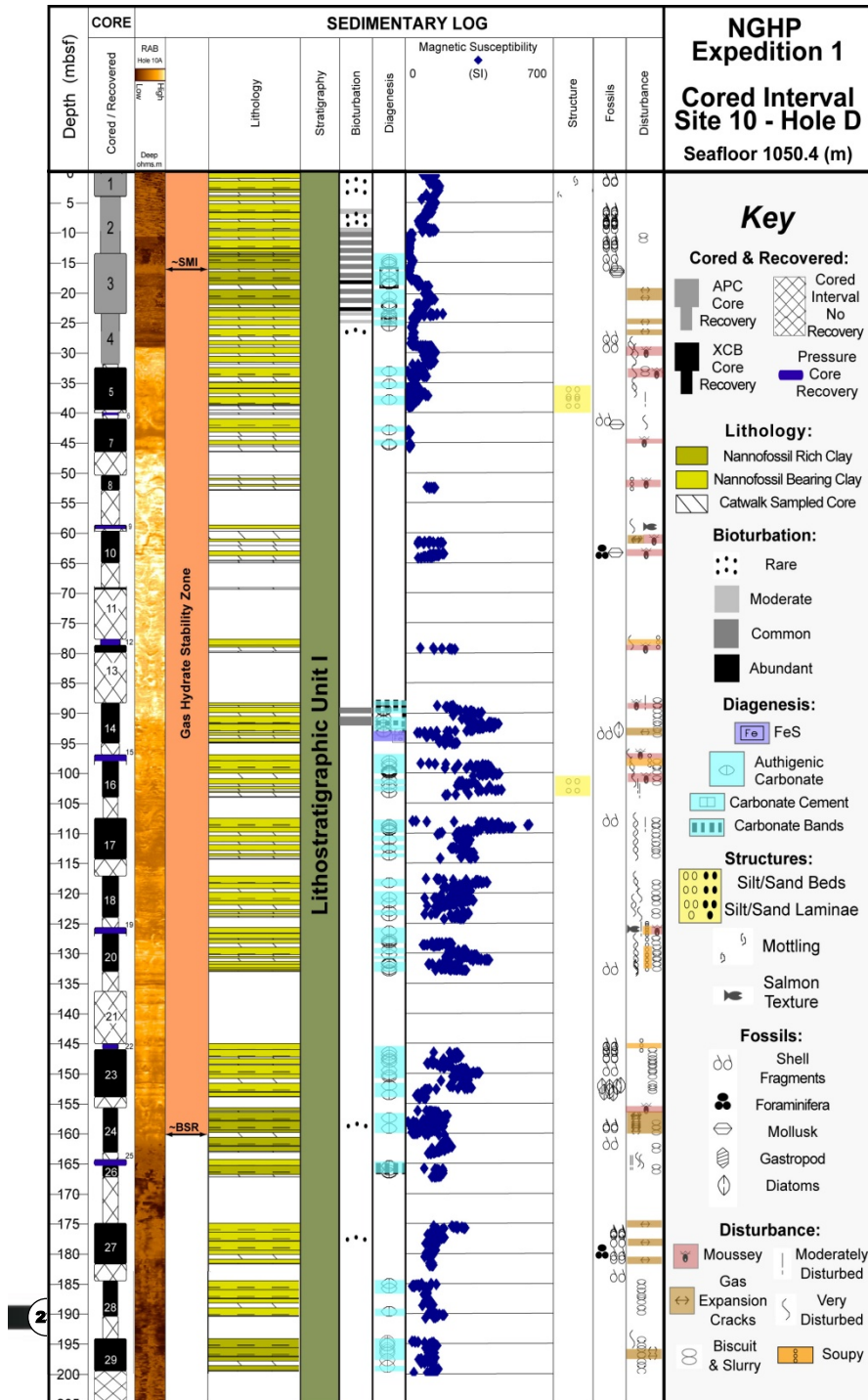
Core ID	
5C-5	
5C-7	
5C-8	
5C-9	
5C-13	
5C-14	
5C-14	14

NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

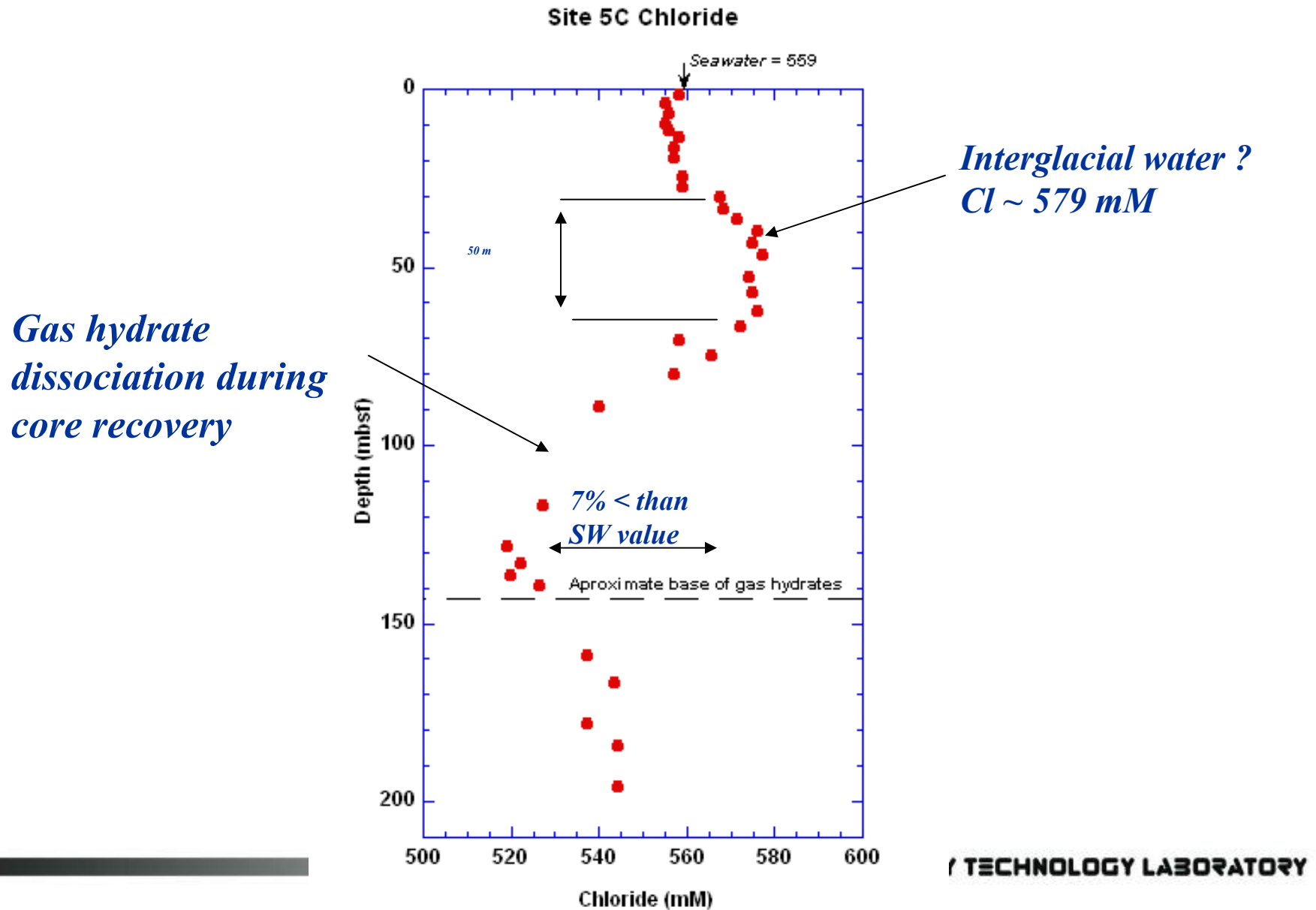


# Lithostratigraphic Contributions

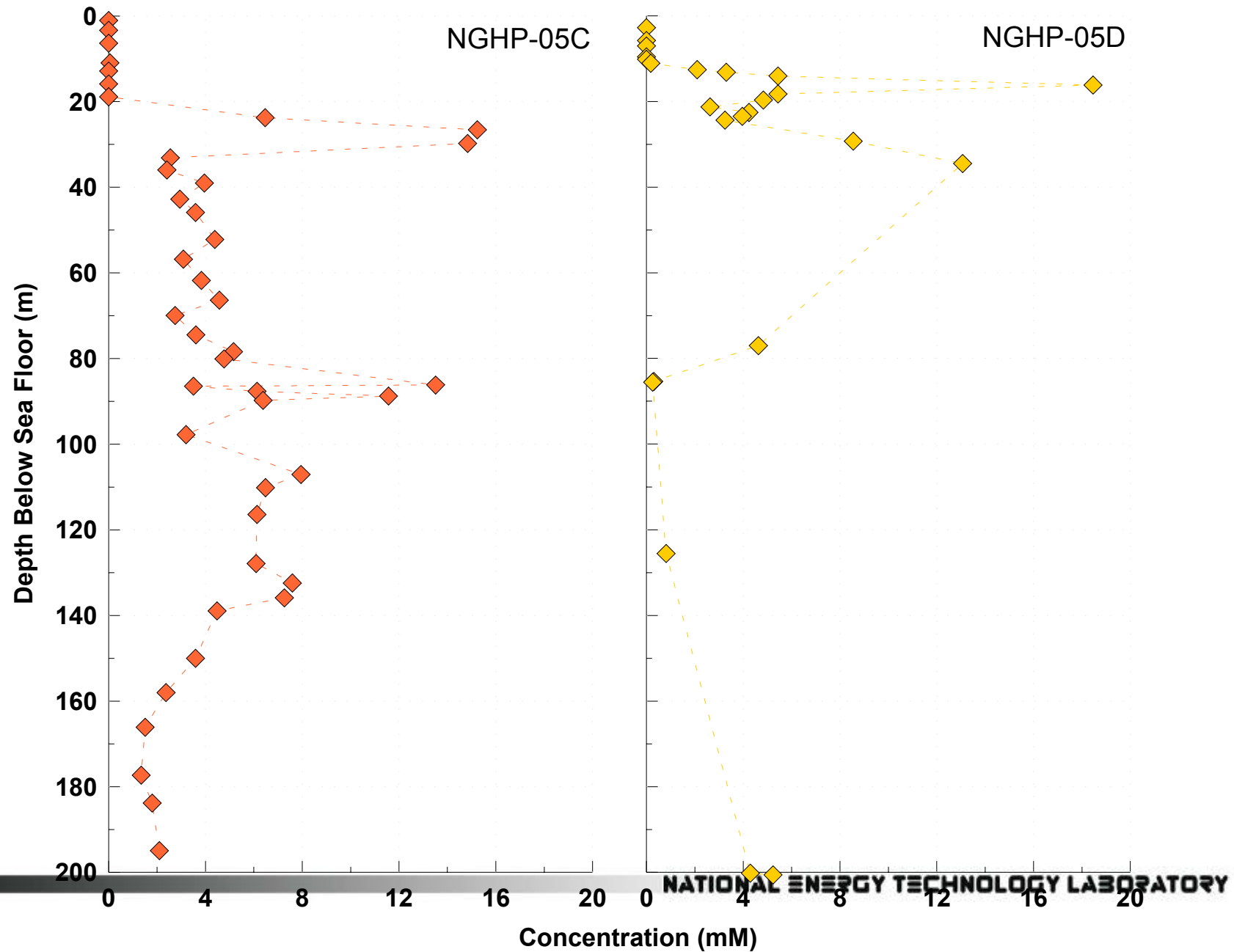
- Detailed descriptions of archival cores
- Identification of sediment compositions
  - Primary & secondary minerals
  - Nanno and Micro fossils
  - Organic material
- Secondary precipitates
  - Authigenic carbonates
  - Iron sulfides, etc
- Identification of Sedimentary Structures
  - Silt or Sand beds
  - Silt or Sand laminae
  - Fractures, etc.
- Core disturbance features
  - Moussey
  - Expansion cracks
- Interpretation of Depositional History



# Inorganic Geochemistry – Chloride Concentrations

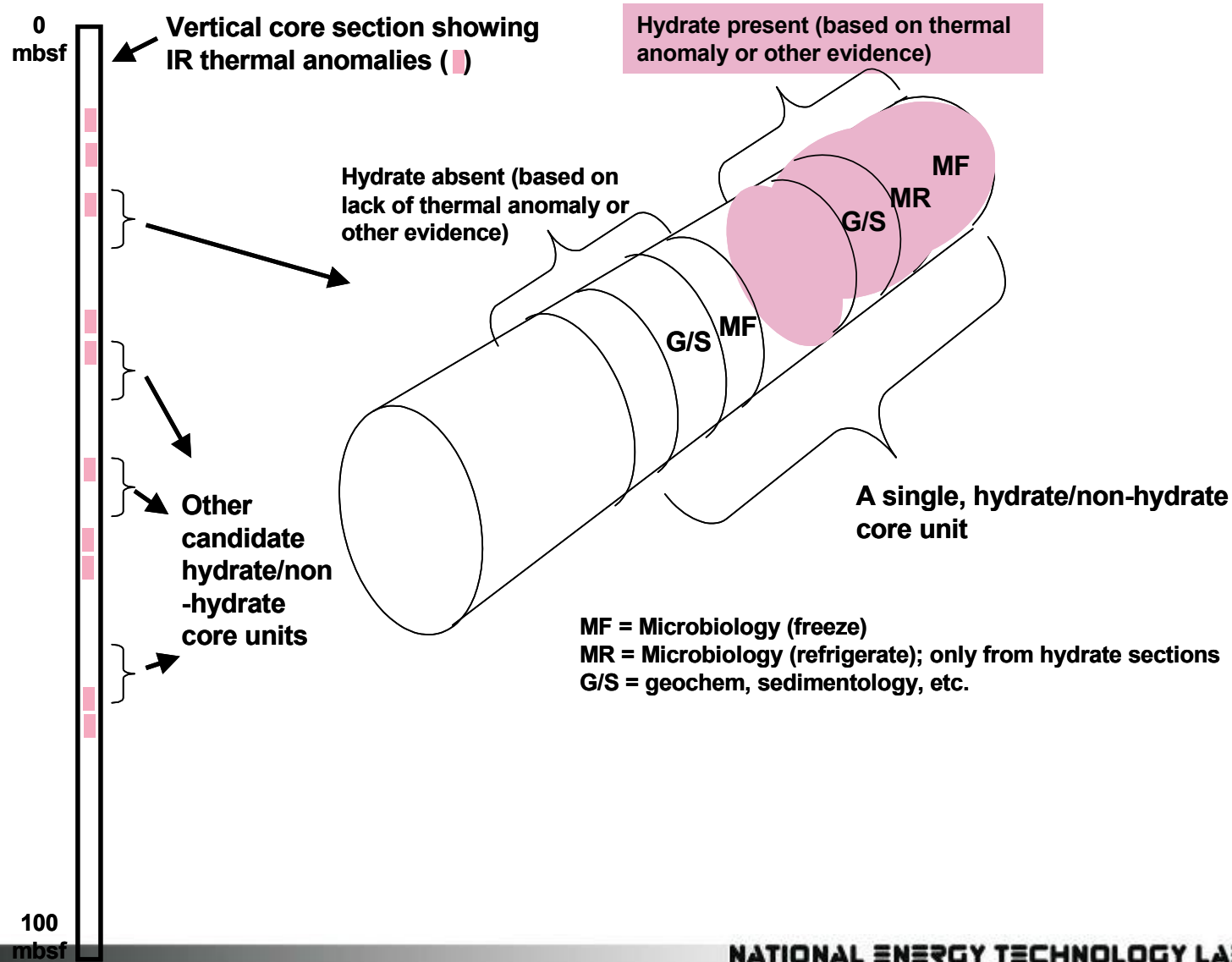


# Organic Geochemistry – Headspace Methane

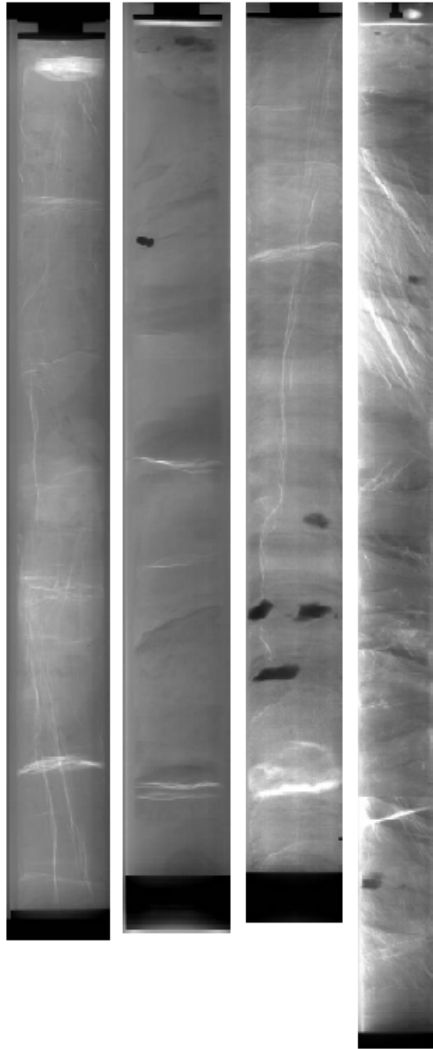




# Microbiological Sampling



# Measurements at In-Situ Pressure

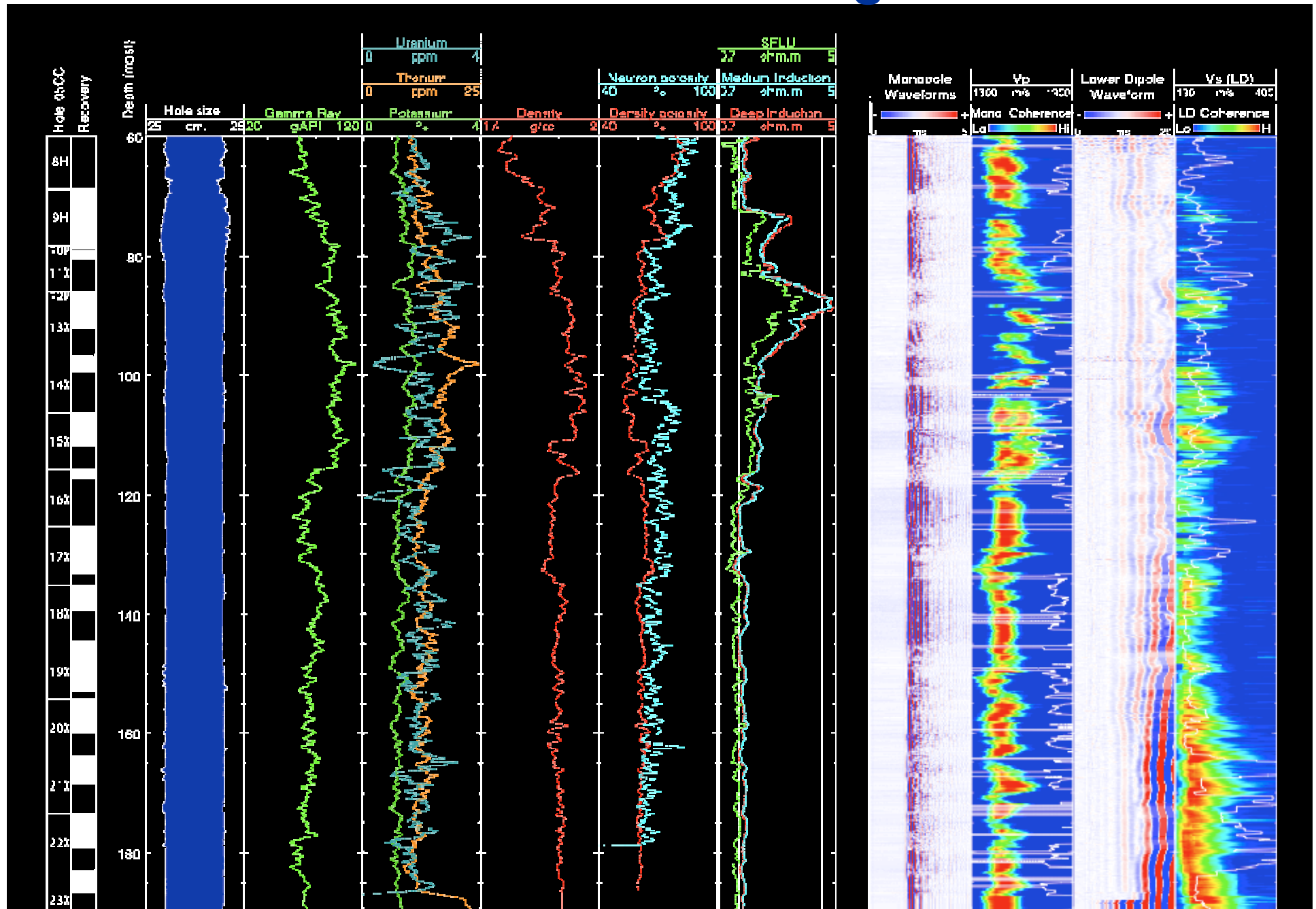


- **X-rays**
- **Gamma density**
- **Acoustic velocity**



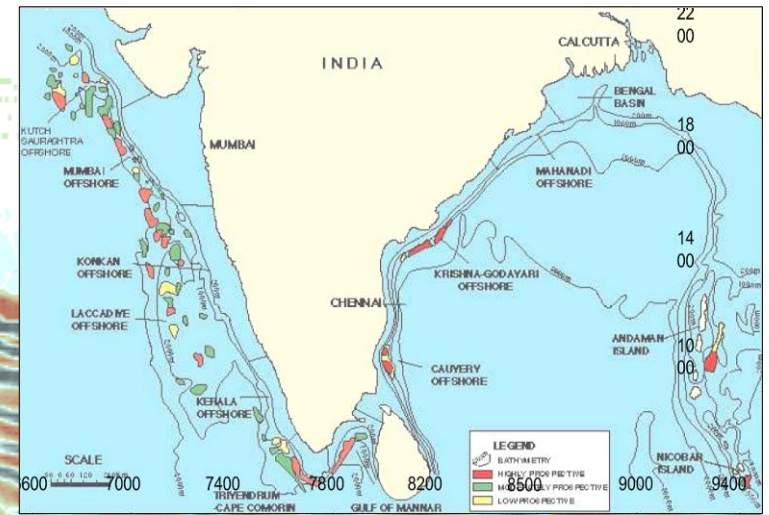


# NGHP Wireline logs



# Hydrates In the Indian Ocean

## *Pre-expedition Evidence*



**Stability zone: 15 Tcf estimated**

**BSR**

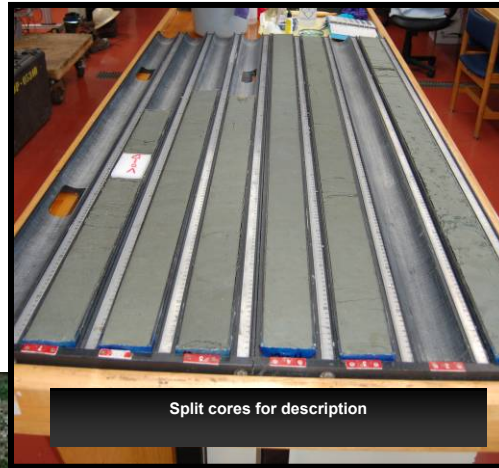
**Free gas accumulation: 25 Tcf estimated**



# Natural Gas Hydrates in the KG Basin

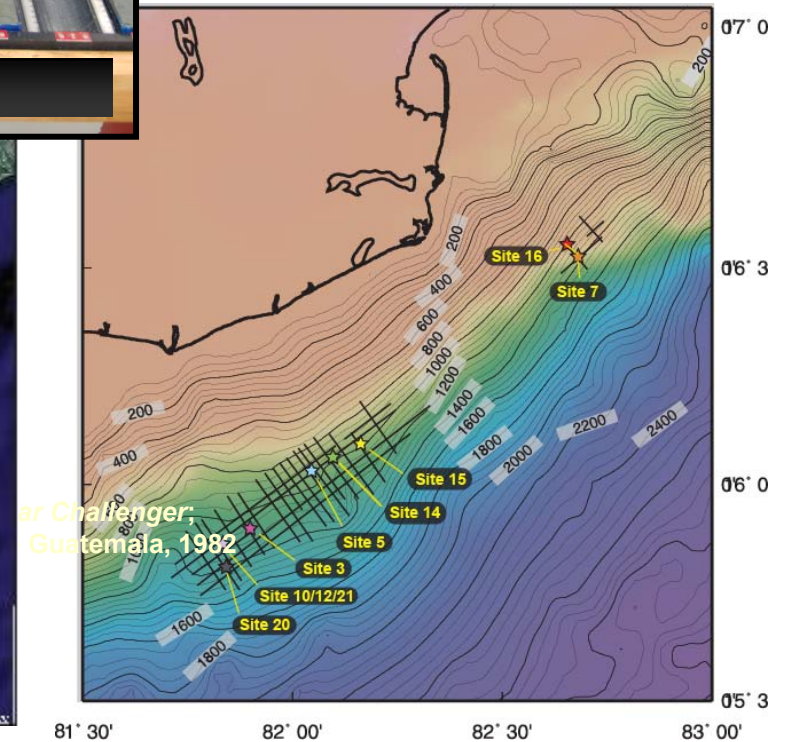
## •Lithologic Components:

- Nannofossil, foram, & smectite bearing to rich clays
- Rare, thinly bedded silt/sand beds & laminae (mm to cm)
- High terrigenous organic carbon content



## • Secondary Precipitates:

- Authigenic carbonates
- Iron sulfides
- Gas hydrates, primarily disseminated, nodules, & fracture fill

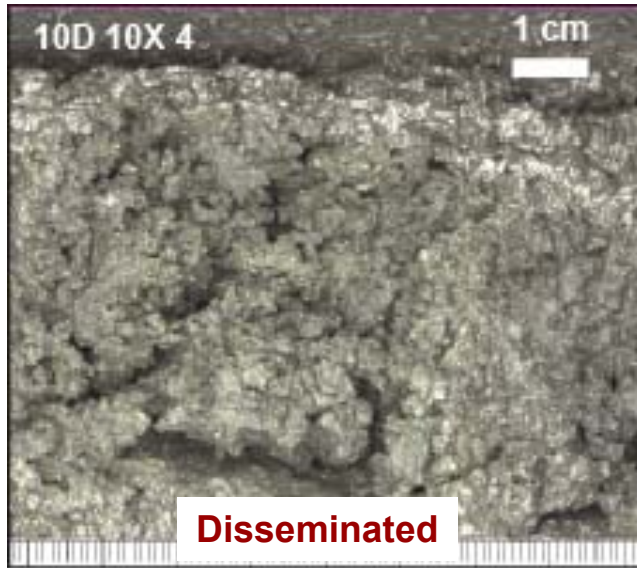




## Primary Gas Hydrate Accumulations Within Clay Lithologies



**IR scan and corresponding split core images of nannofossil bearing to rich clay in the GHSZ. The IR anomalies document the presence of hydrate throughout this impermeable lithofacies.**



## Disseminated



# Massive

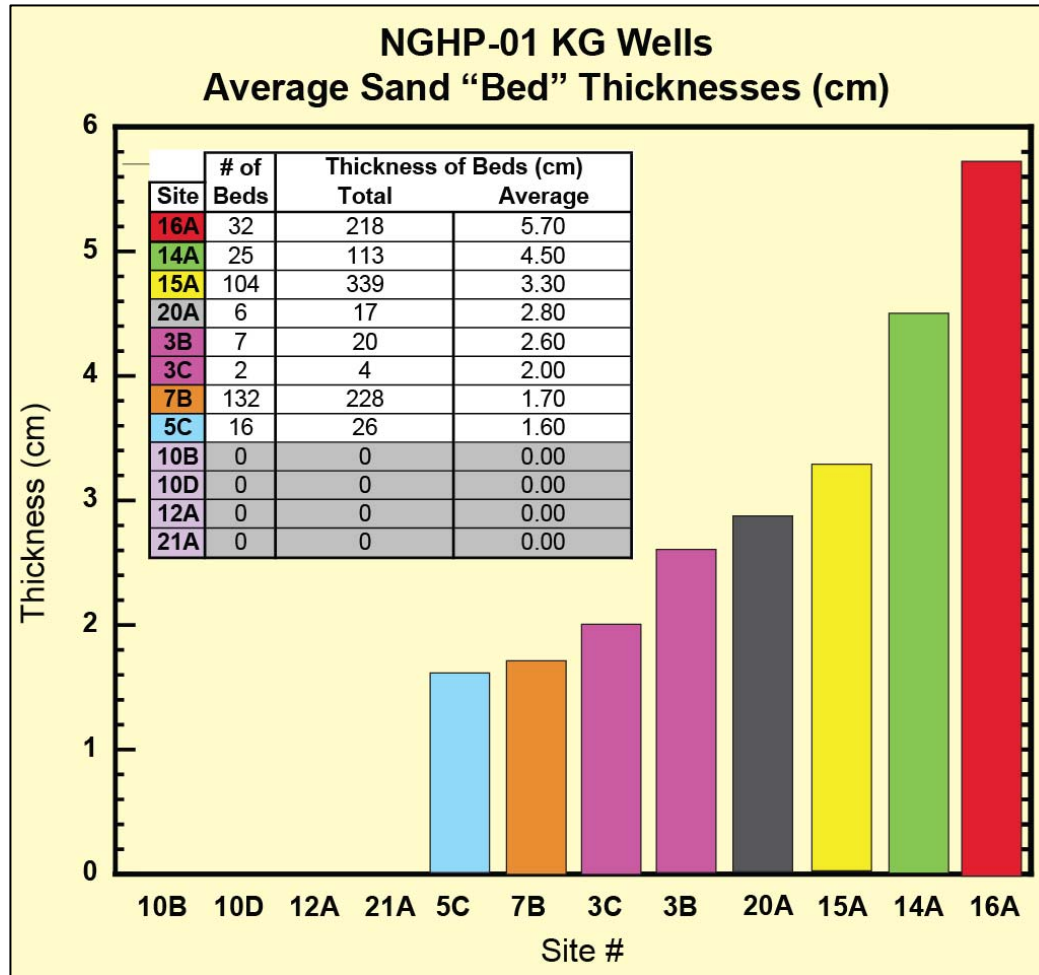


## Fracture fill

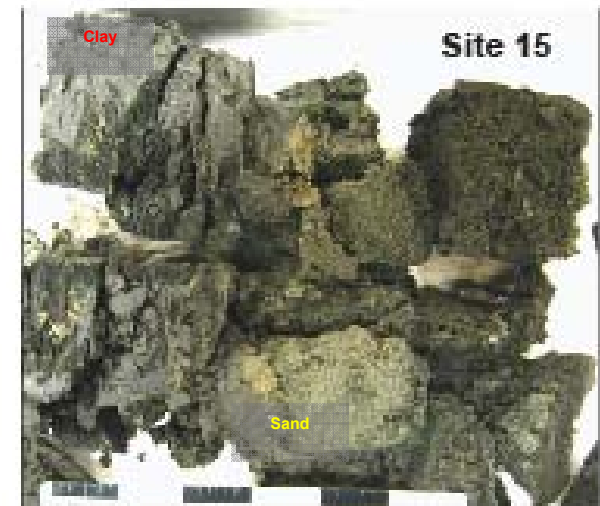
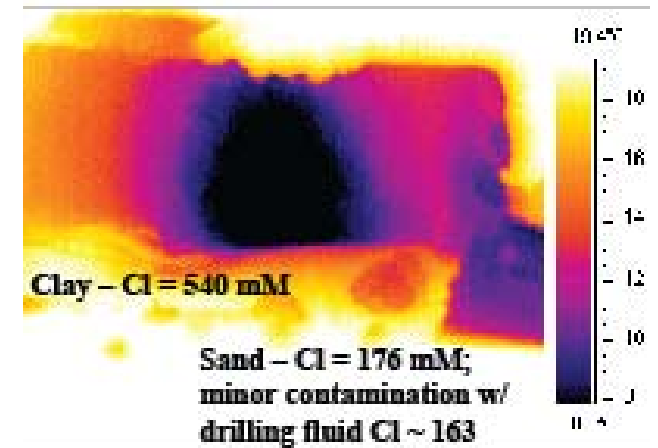


# Secondary Accumulations

## Porous & Permeable Lithologies



Rare coarser grained, permeable facies are present in the form of thin, mm to cm, sand & silt laminae and beds



Core photo & corresponding IR  
image of GH bearing sediments

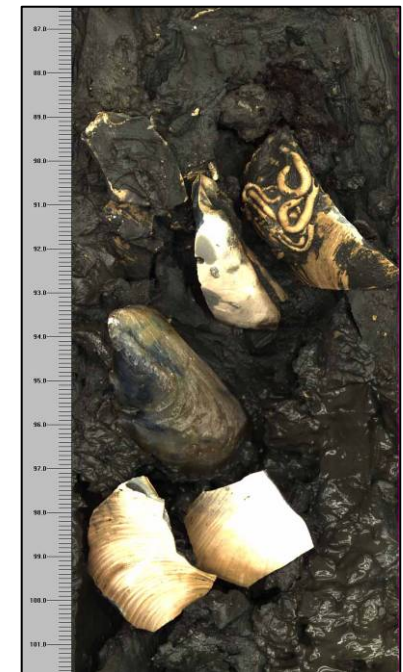
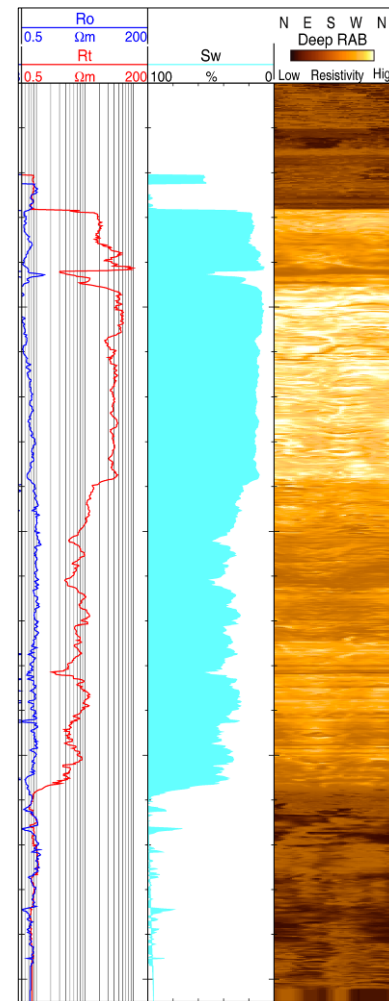
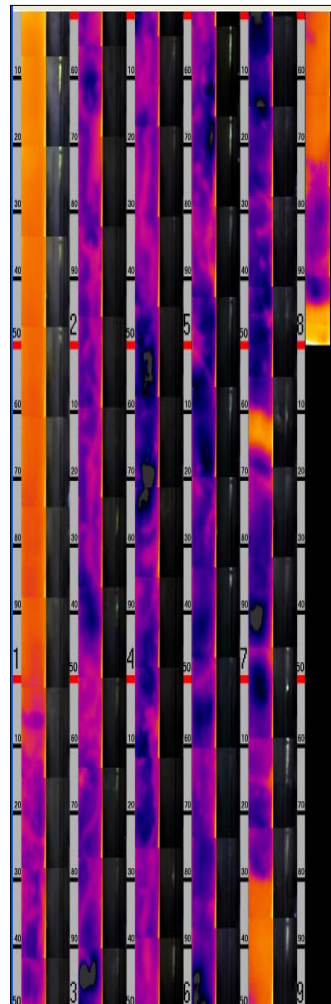
# Krishna-Godavari Basin

## Site 10/21 - Richest Hydrate Locality Yet Discovered?

- 130-meters of hydrate-bearing section
- Log-calculated GH saturations of 60-80%
- Fracture-controlled distribution w/in a shale matrix
- Produceable?
- Limited areal extent



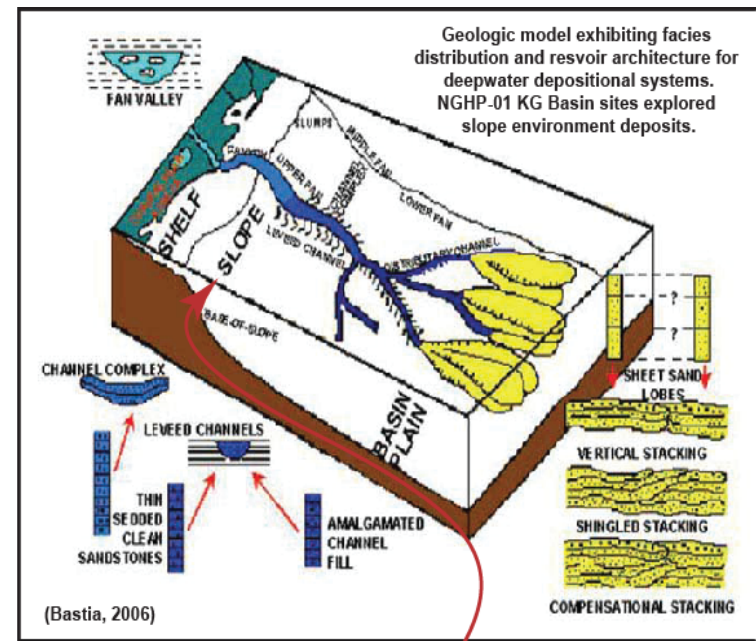
Pressure core images documenting hydrate bearing i) anastomosing fractures & ii) sub-horizontal nodules & layers



# KG System Summary

- **Slope dominated, deep marine depositional system**
- **Low permeability marine hydrate system with structural overprint**
  - Disseminated gas hydrate in fine grained marine clay lithofacies dominant form
  - Laterally discontinuous structural features, faults & fractures, control massive gas hydrate occurrences in veins, fractures & nodules
  - Pore-filling hydrate cemented sand/silt laminae & thin beds
- **Thicker beds of coarser grained, permeable facies are likely down-dip in basin plain turbidite/debris flow deposits**

Dr. Kumar holds (temporarily) a burning piece of nodular hydrate from Site 10



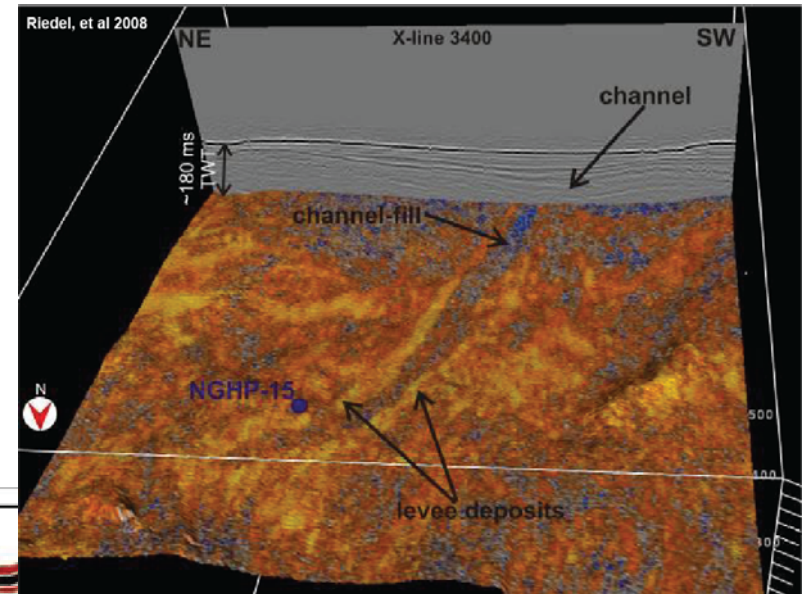
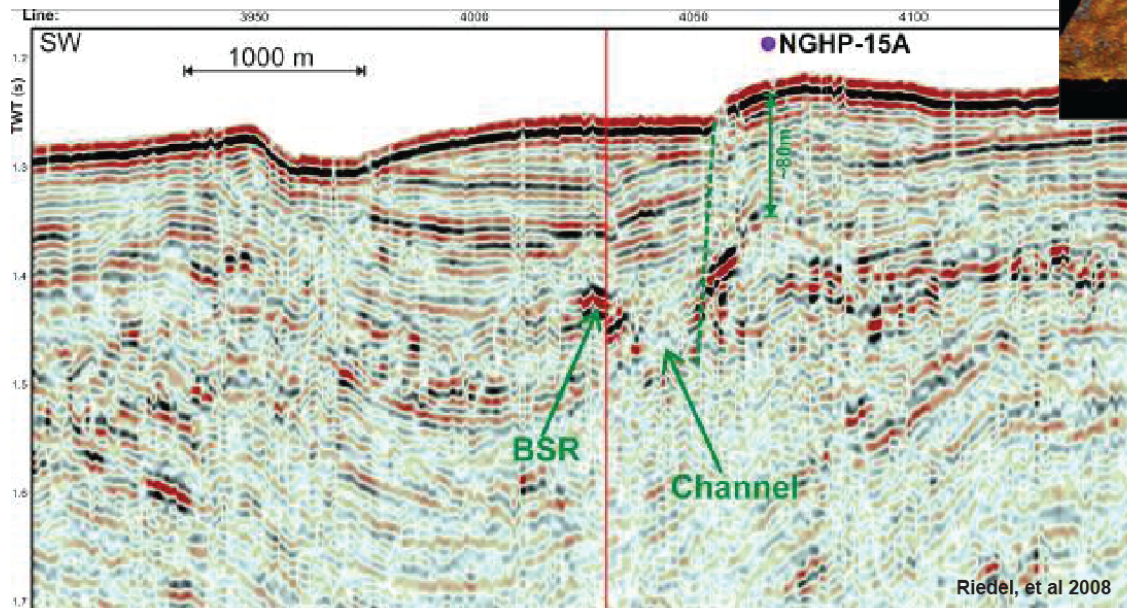
- Sea-level controlled slope deposition
- Mix of terrigenous and pelagic materials with increased coarse fraction delivery during lowstands



# Future Exploration

## *More Porous and Permeable Units*

- SW NE seismic line imaging a channel near Site 15
- The channel edges/levees appear to be coincident with the base of GHZ
- These are potentially hydrate rich levee deposits given the reflection amplitudes of the events
- However the composition of the sediments is uncertain



- Seismic attributes time slice
- Channel-levee system imaged
- High sweetness values, shown in yellow/orange, appear to be associated with levee-deposits
- The channel fill have lower sweetness values possibly indicating shalier content than the levees

# GMGS-1 Gas Hydrate Expedition

*April 21<sup>st</sup> – June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007*

## •Principal Participants

- Guangzhou Marine Geological Survey (GMGS)
- China Geological Survey (CGS)
- The Ministry of Land and Resources of P. R. China
- Fugro
- Geotek

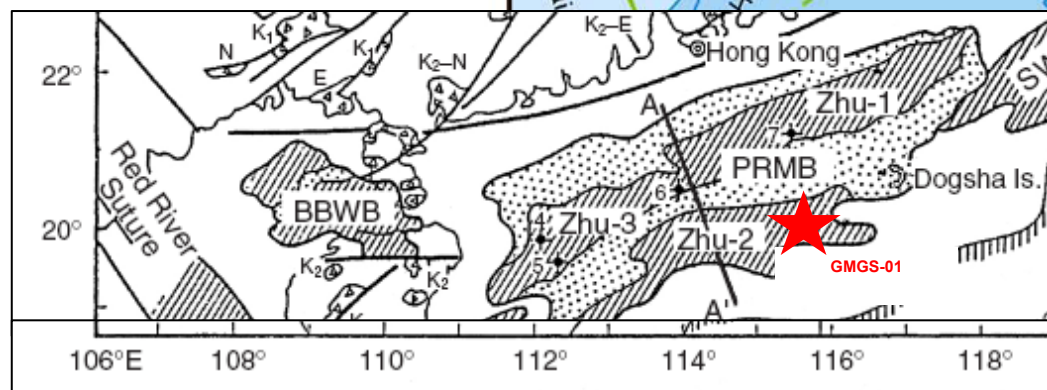
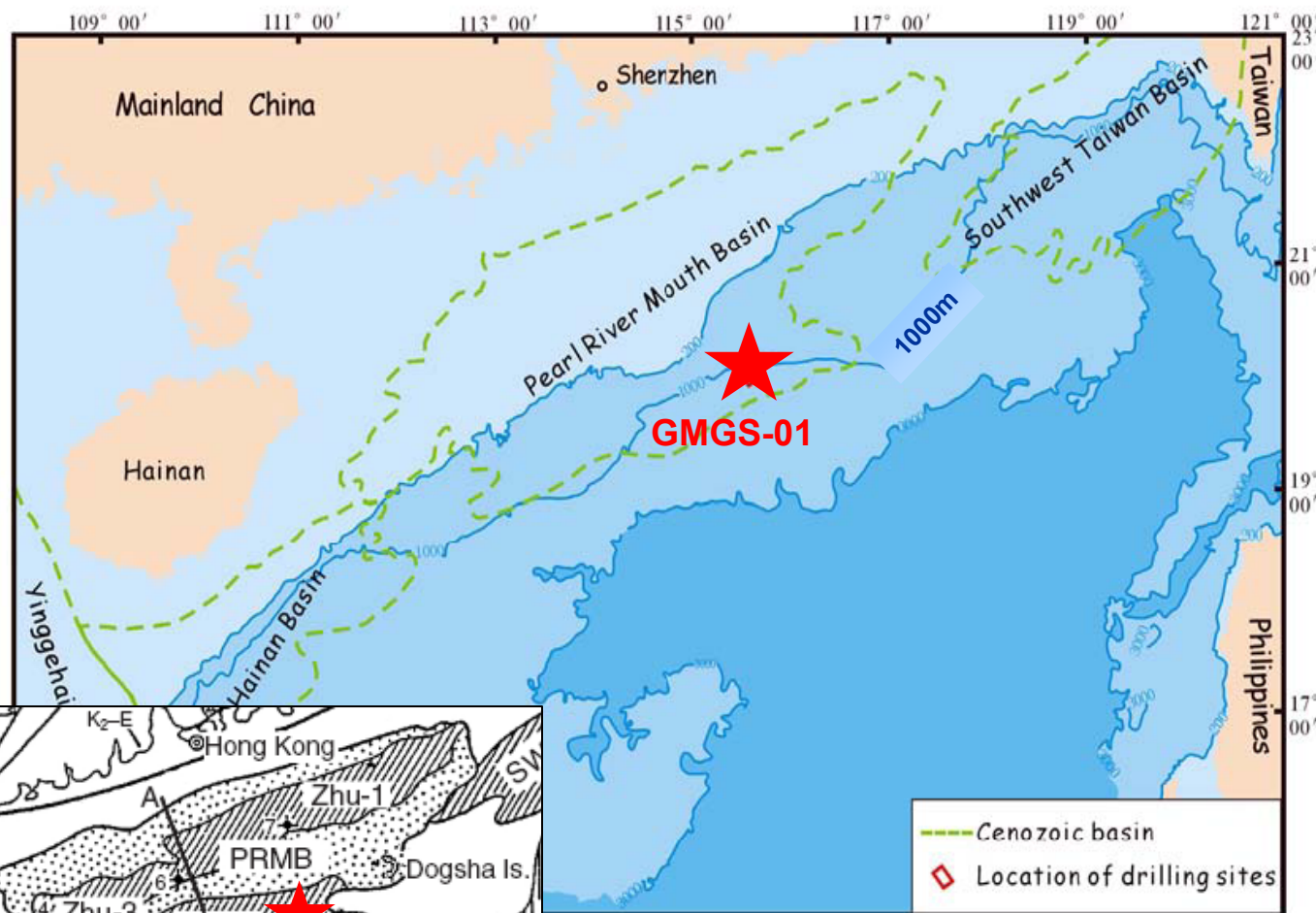


Bavenit (Photo Courtesy of Fugro)



# Location & Geologic Setting

- Explored 8 sites in the South China Sea
- Water depths up to 1500m
- Drilled up to 300mbsf
- Tested precruise 3D seismic and shallow geochemistry based hydrate prospects

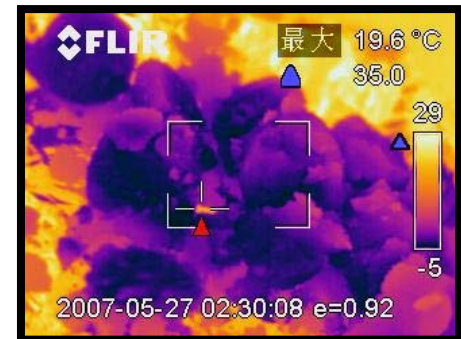
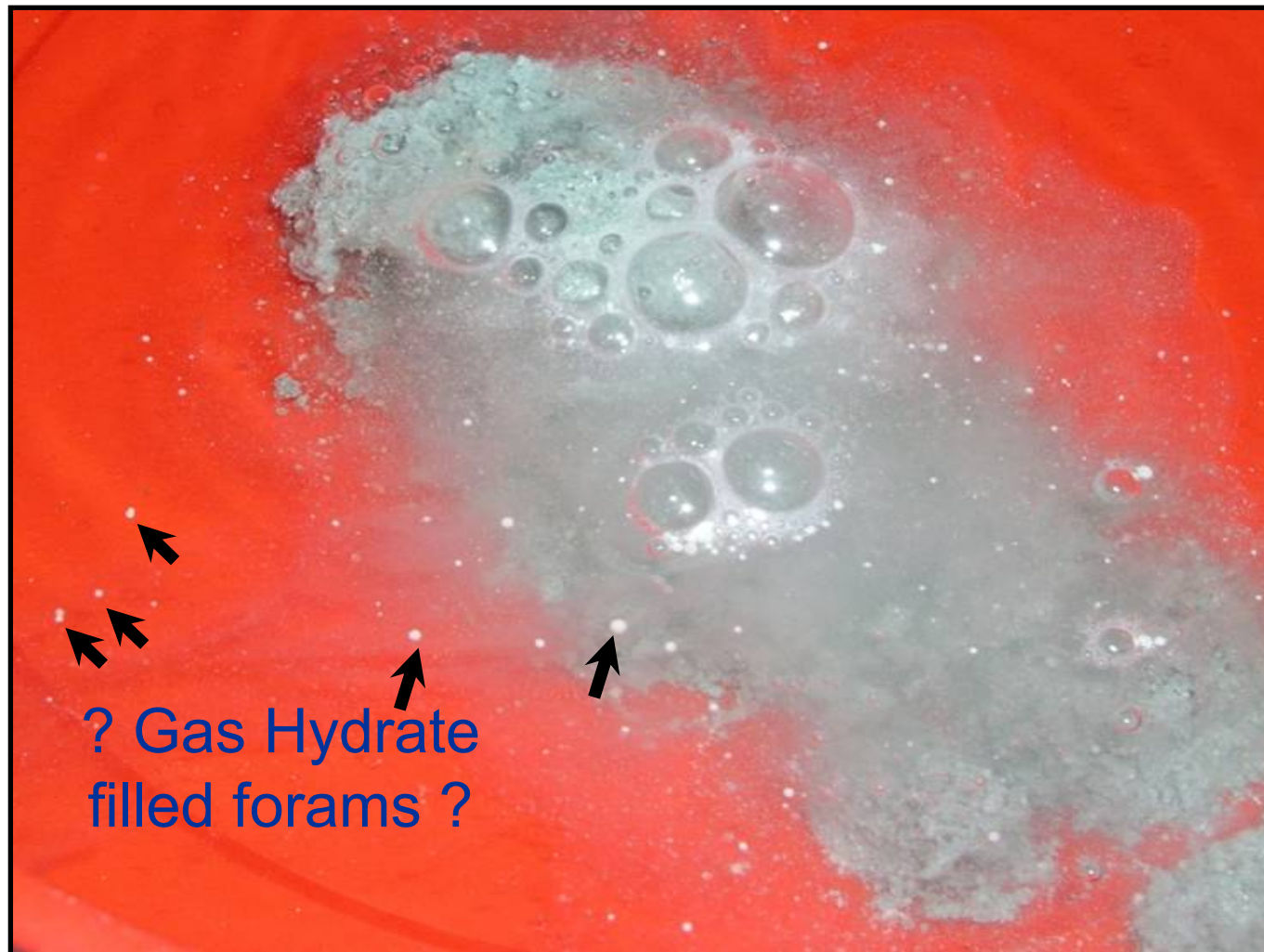


(modified from  
ODP Initial Report  
Leg 184)

GMGS-01 was located in  
the Zhu 2 sub-basin of the  
Pearl River Mouth Basin  
(PRMB).



# GMGS-01 Gas Hydrate



Core photo & corresponding IR image of GH bearing sediments

The nature of sediments recovered was almost 100% clay, however, the volume of foraminifera present varied

# Preliminary Results

- **Presence of hydrate confirmed at 3 of the 5 locations**
  - Layer above GHSZ, 10 to 25+ m thick
  - Disseminated in fine grained, foram-bearing to rich clay interval
  - Saturations of 20 to 40% of the pore volume
  - Gas composition was 99% methane
- **The occurrence of gas hydrate correlated well with resistivity log data at all 5 core sites**
- **There appears to be a direct relationship between resistivity and measured GH concentrations**
  - Despite relatively low resistivity values
- **There was no obvious correlation between gas hydrate occurrence and seismic data**
  - Further research on this topic is ongoing





# UBGH-1 Gas Hydrate Expedition

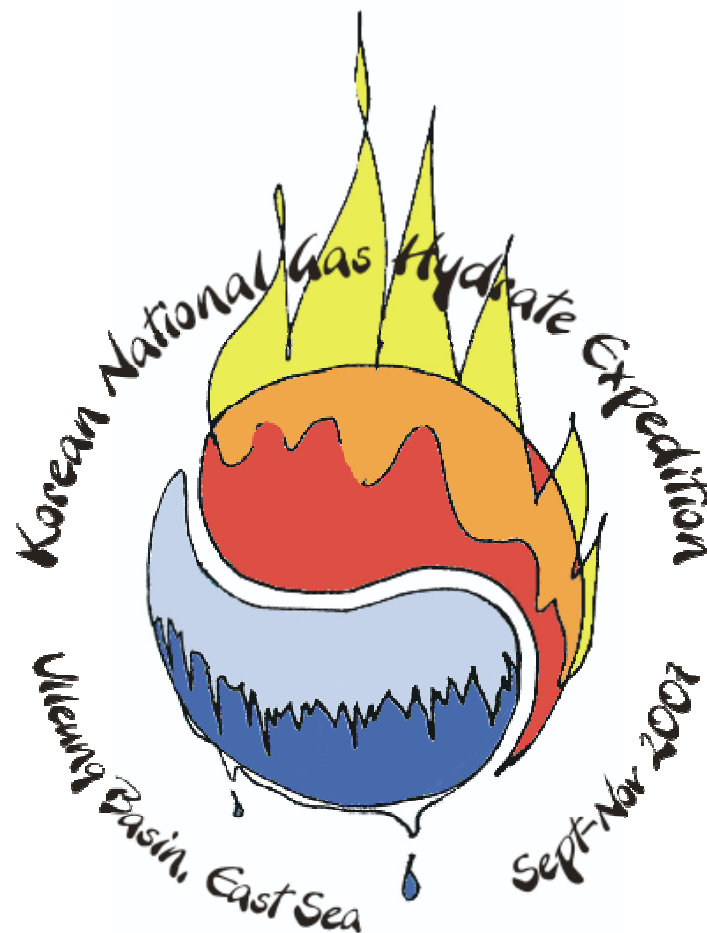
## *September - November, 2007*

### •Principal Participants

- KGHDO, KIGAM, KNOC, KOGAS
- Fugro
- Geotek
- McGill University
- NETL/DOE



Drill ship *Rem Etive*, which had been converted to a drilling ship by Fugro Seacore using the heave compensated R100 portable drill rig

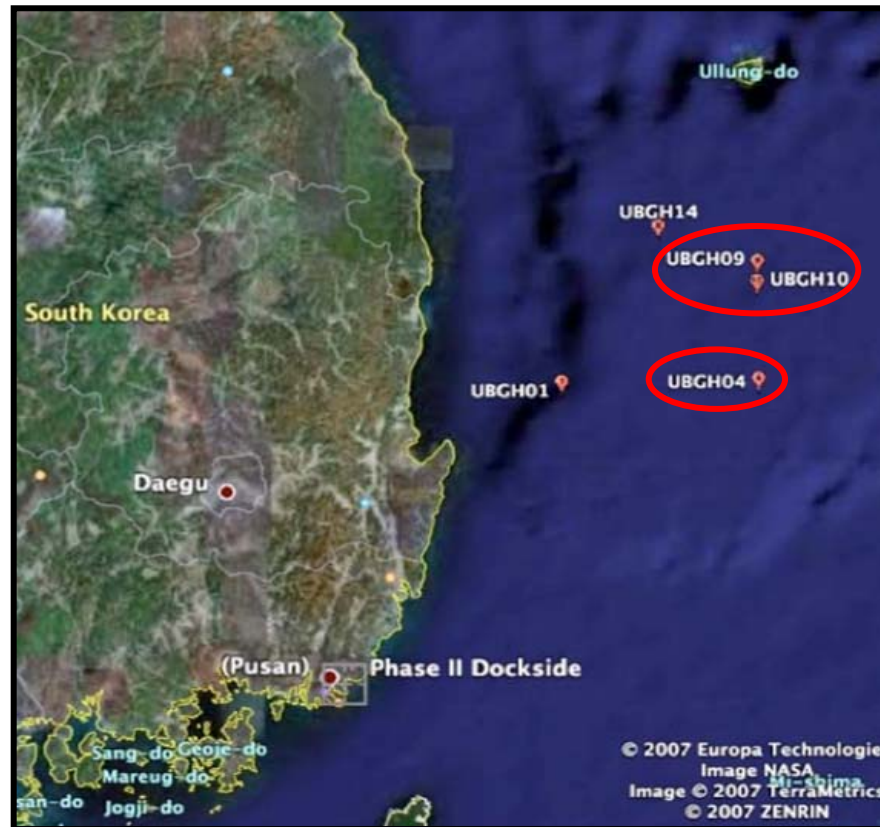


# Study Area – Ulleung Basin

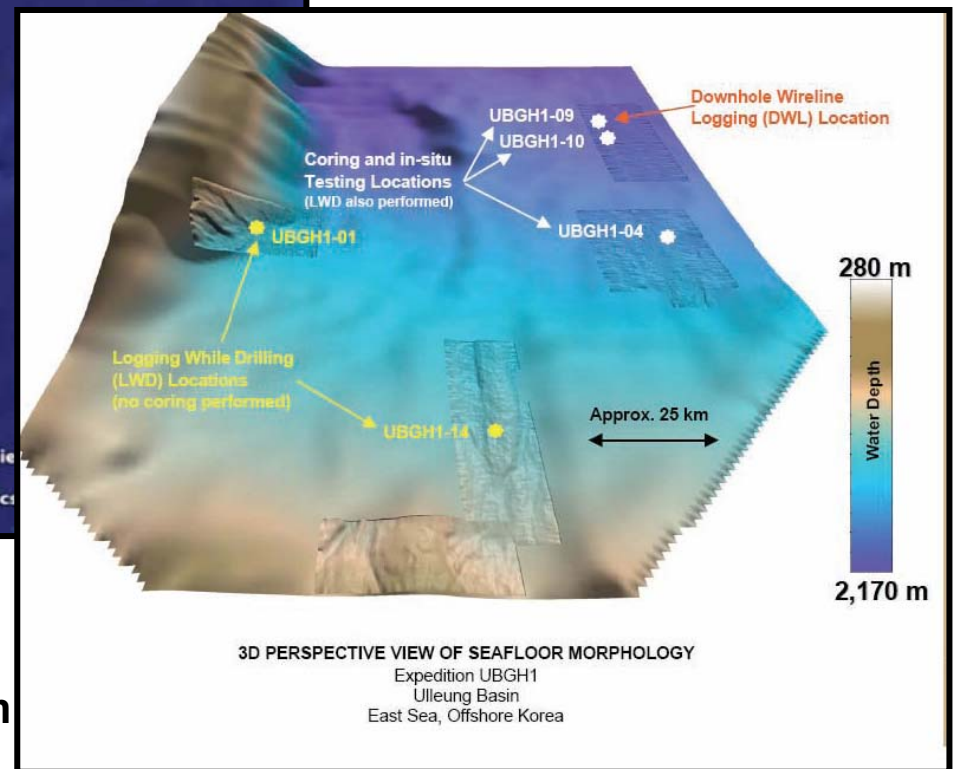




# Three UBGH-01 Sites Cored & Sampled



- 57 days at sea
- Entailed drilling and coring at 3 sites



- Documented significant gas-hydrate bearing reservoirs up to 150 mbsf
- At water depths between 1800 to 2100m

# Coring Summary

- 38 Conventional cores recovered
- 15 Pressure cores recovered
- 7 Pressure cores stored under pressure
- Conventional and pressure cores recovered using several wireline coring tools
  - The 7.5 meter, *Fugro Hydraulic Piston Corer*
  - The 3 meter, short hammer corer, *Fugro Corer*
  - The 1 meter, *Fugro Pressure Corer*
  - The 1 meter, *Fugro Rotary Pressure Corer*



Drill floor on board REM Etive, with the FPC being loaded into the drill string prior to lowering and coring.



# Shipboard Core Analyses

## PRIMARY DEPOSITION

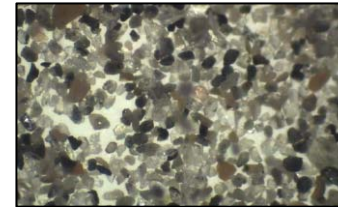
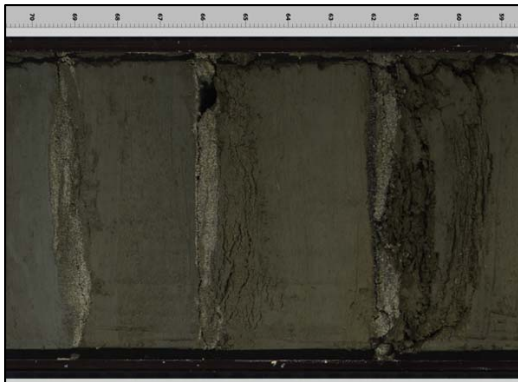
- Pelagic siliceous & calcareous clays
- Thin silt-sand beds
- Rare volcanic glass beds
- Volcanic glass and pumice fragments

## SECONDARY PRECIPITATION

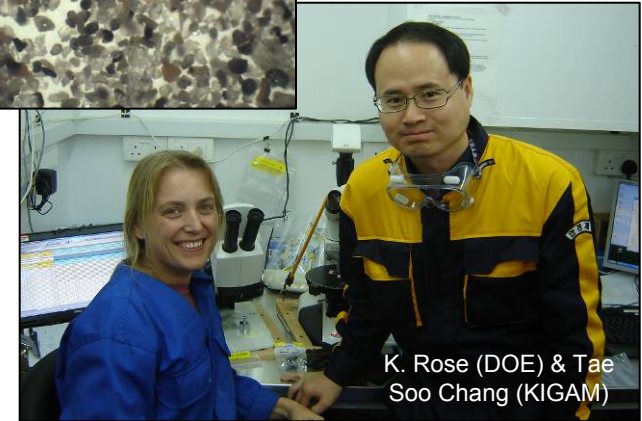
- Hydrate
- Iron Sulfide mottling
- Authigenic carbonate

## DEPOSITIONAL HISTORY

- Sea-level controlled slope/basin
- Turbidite/debris flows
- Periodic backarc basin, volcanic ash/glass falls



Quartz Rich Sands



K. Rose (DOE) & Tae Soo Chang (KIGAM)

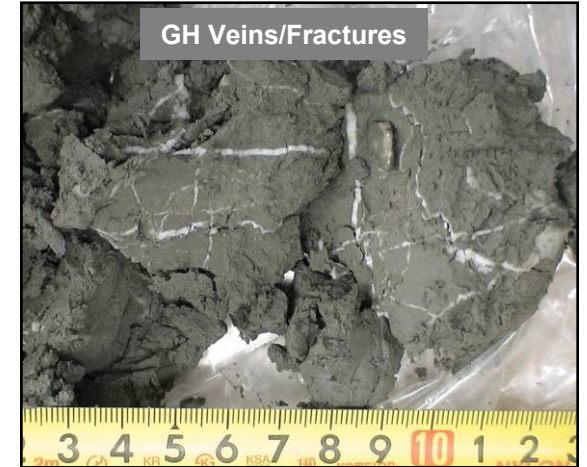


Korean Science Team at Work in Lab



# UBGH-01 Hydrates Samples

- Plenty of methane hydrate in various lithologies and forms
- 18 gas hydrate bearing samples preserved in LN



# Back on Shore...

Dr. Schultheiss (Geotek), Dr. K.P. Park (KGHDO), & Dr. Riedel (McGill)



Ongoing incorporation  
of UBGH-01 results  
into next expedition  
planning

A recognized need  
to move beyond  
prospects solely  
based on BSRs



K. Rose (DOE) &  
Dr. J.S. Bahk (KIGAM)



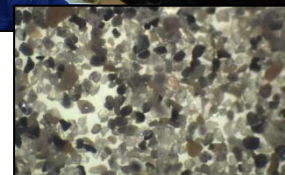
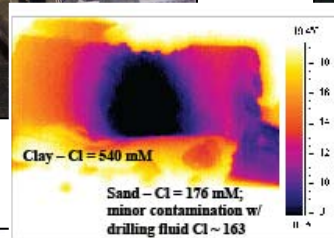
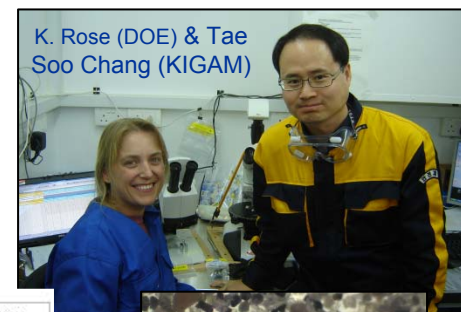
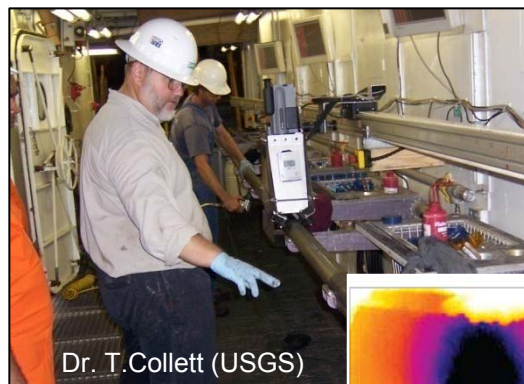
(Photo courtesy of the Korean Ministry  
of Commerce, Industry & Energy)



# US National R&D Program

## *Contributing to & Benefitting from International R&D*

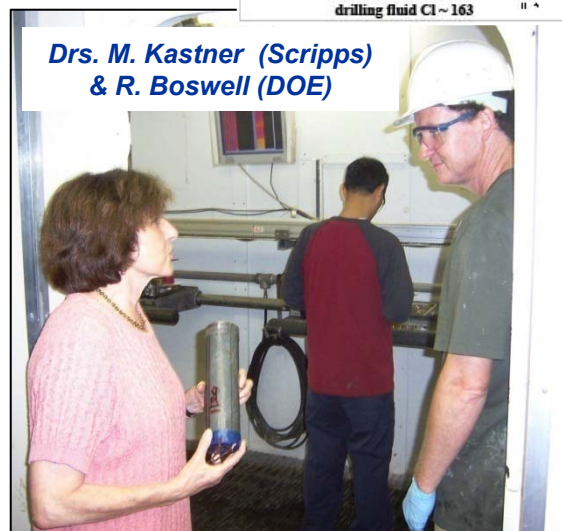
- **Operational advances**
  - Pressure coring
  - IR and IR-geochem integration
  - Pre-core LWD
- **Science advances**
  - SMI subject to geologic complexity
  - High-saturation clay systems
  - BSRs not sufficient: Petroleum system approach needed for finding sands



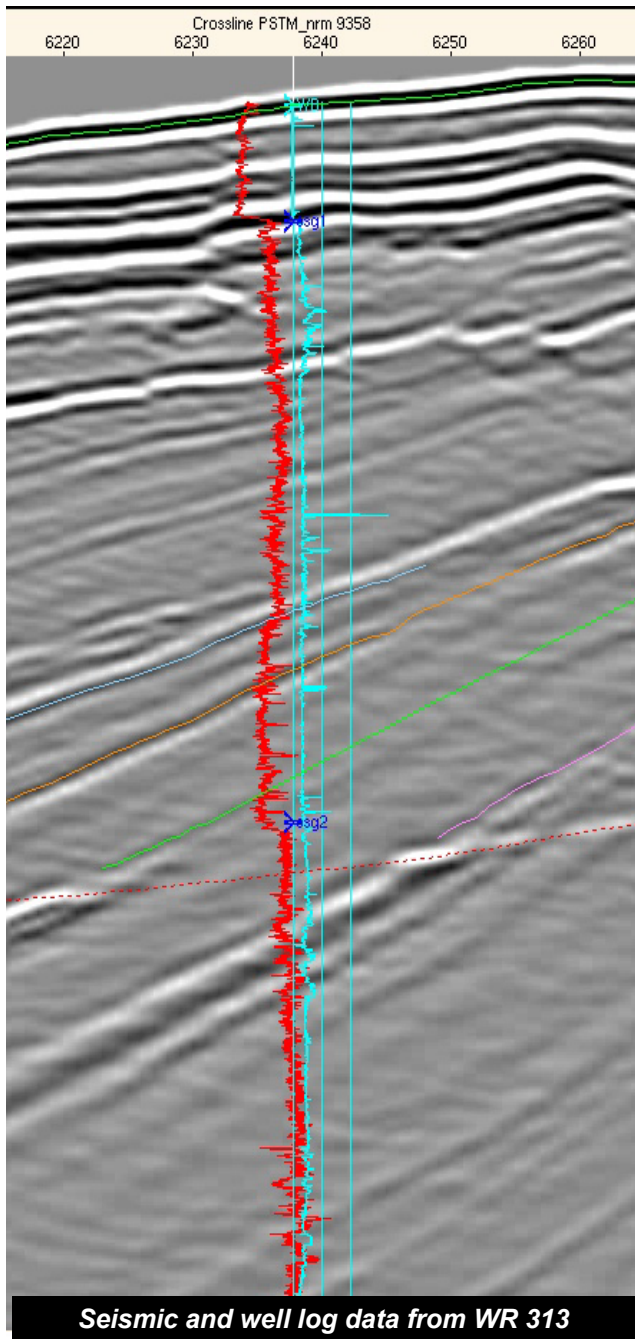
Quartz Rich Hydrate Bearing Sands



Drs. Haiqi Zhang (GMGS) and Peter Schultheiss (Geotek)



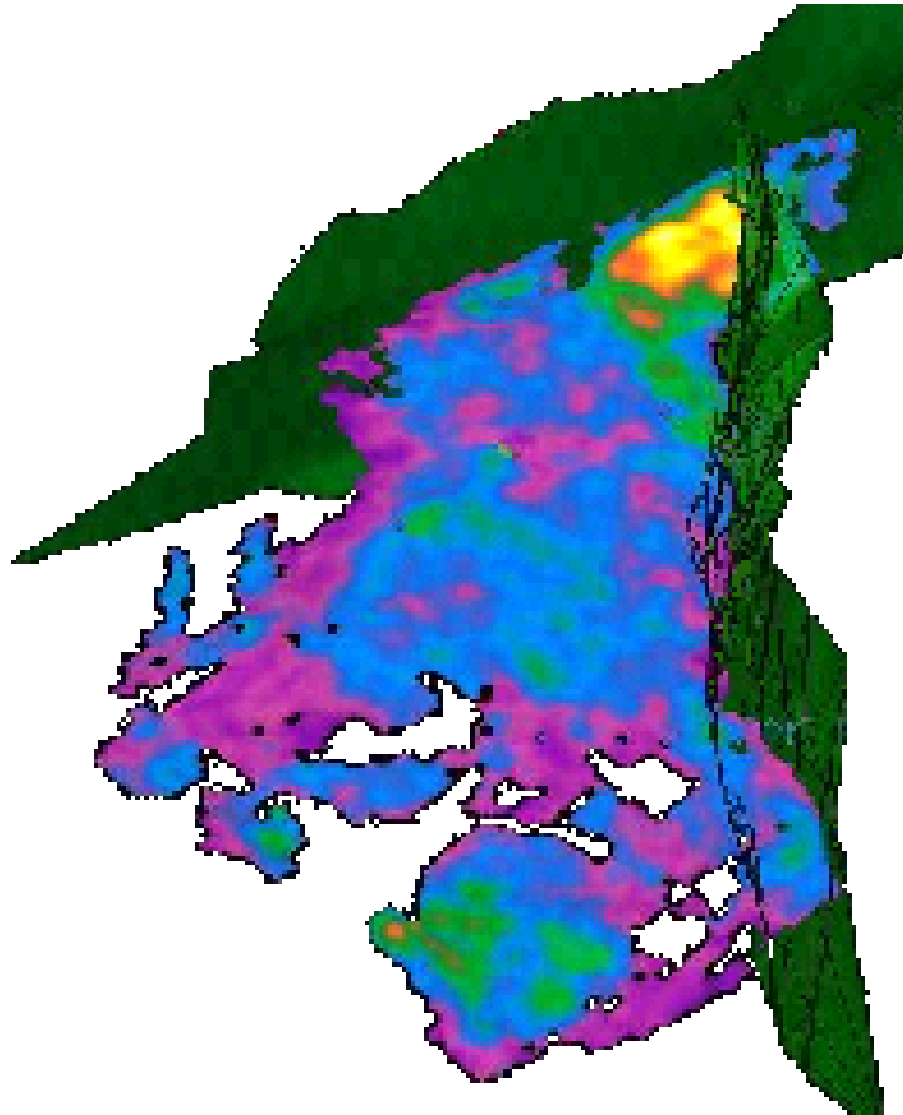
NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY



# Presentation Outline

- The National Energy Technology Lab
- Overview of naturally-occurring gas hydrates
  - What are gas hydrates
  - Where do they occur
  - Why is there so much interest...
- The National Methane Hydrate R&D Program
- Recent major domestic & international gas hydrates field exploration efforts
- **Exploration challenges and the Program's efforts to address these key issues**
  - Basic Science: Where, why, how?
  - Resources: How much?
  - G&G: Can we find them?
  - Engineering: Can we produce them?



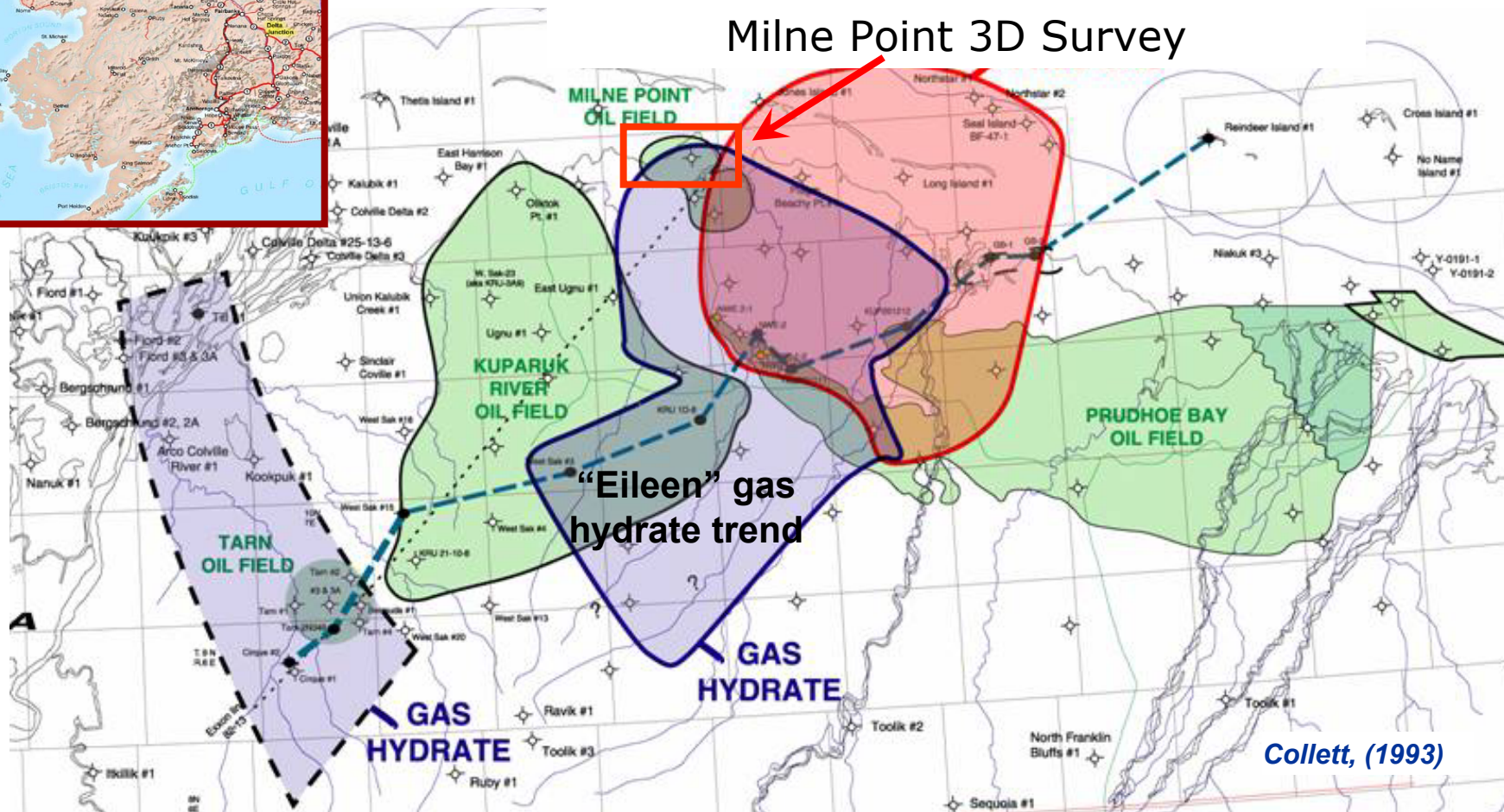


# Prospect Scale Assessment

# Alaska North Slope Gas Hydrates

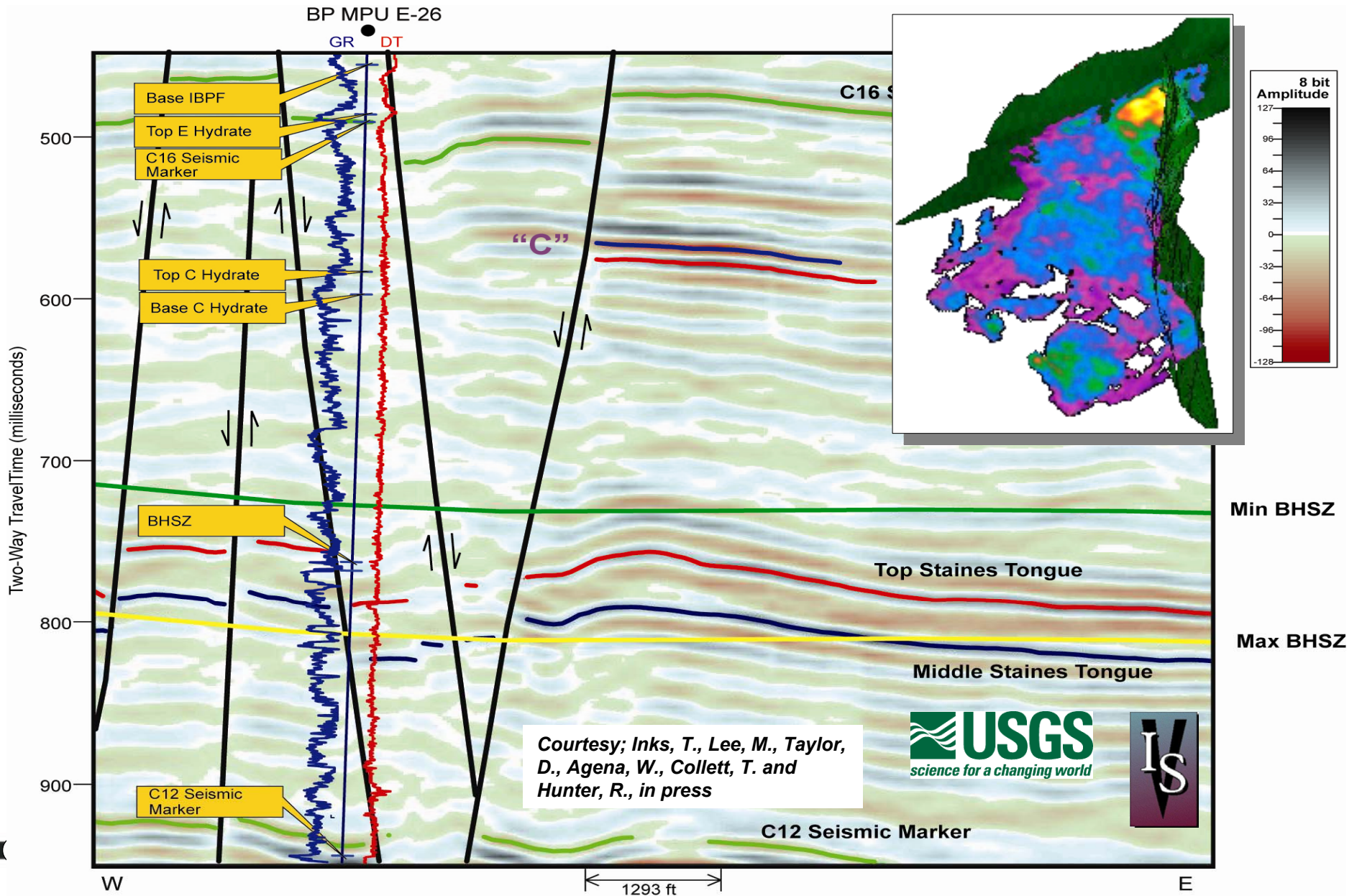


Milne Point 3D Survey



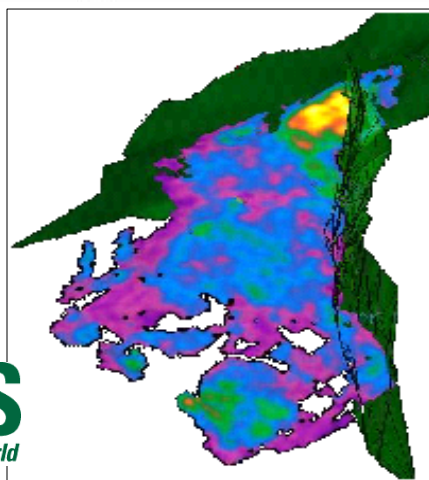
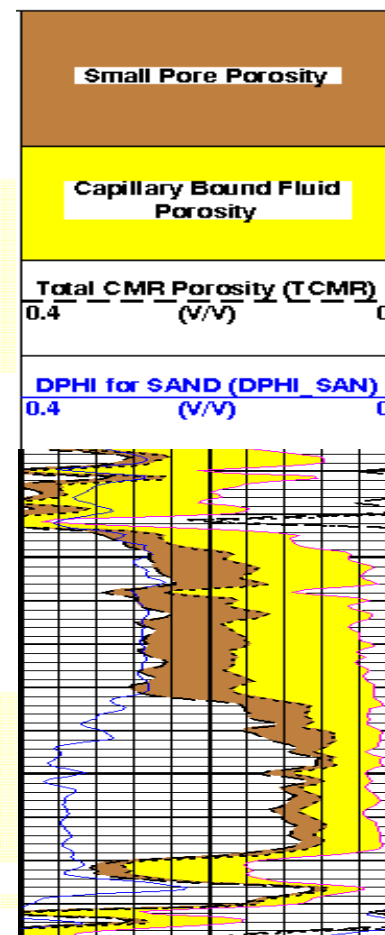
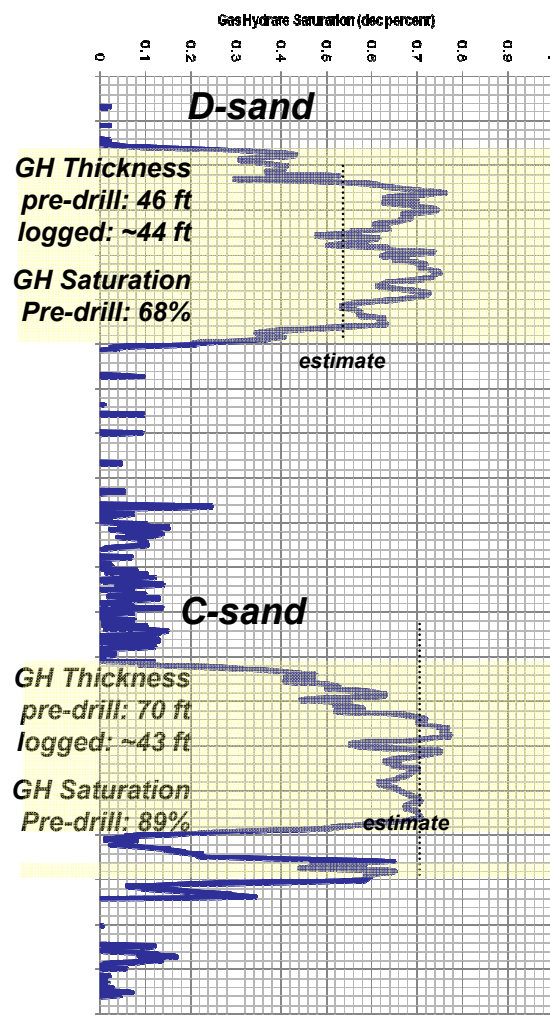
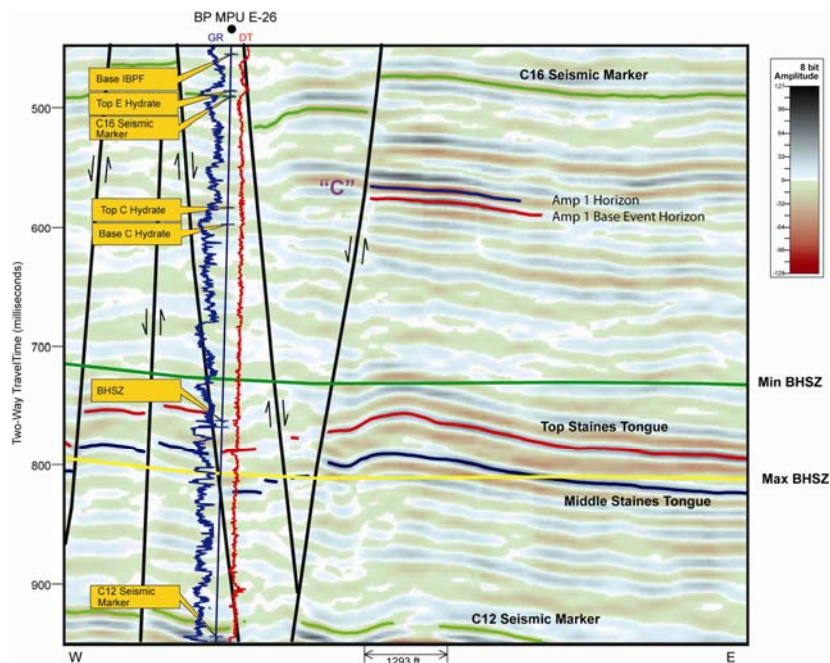


# Milne Point Prospecting



# Mount Elbert #1 Well

## comparison of pre-drill estimated with drilling results





# Mount Elbert

## *key findings*

- **Confirmation of pre-drill G&G interpretation**
- **Ongoing study of core samples and details of GH occurrence:**
  - similar porosity, K, grain size of marine sands
- **Confirmation of pore fluid distribution**
  - $S_{gh} = 65\%$ ;  $25\% = S_{wirr}$
  - $S_{gh} = 75\%$ ;  $10\% = S_{wirr}$
- **Determination of intrinsic K**
  - 0.12 – 0.17 mD
- **Reformation kinetics important**
- **Detailed reservoir heterogeneity may control productivity**



*Ice Road to Doyon-14 rig, Milne Point Alaska,  
February, 2007*

# DOE-BP-USGS Mt. Elbert Test Well

*January, 2007*

- Demonstrated ability to safely collect data in shallow unconsolidated sediments
- Confirmed exploration method – regional resource assessment
- First open-hole pressure test confirmed gas release and technical producibility
- Acquired the most complete dataset available to the science community
- Cost: only ~\$4.2 M (Mallik = \$60 M)
- Set the stage for long-term production test in FY2009?: Cost = TBD, but \$25-\$30m over 2 yrs – more with subsidence monitoring.





# Gulf of Mexico JIP Expedition

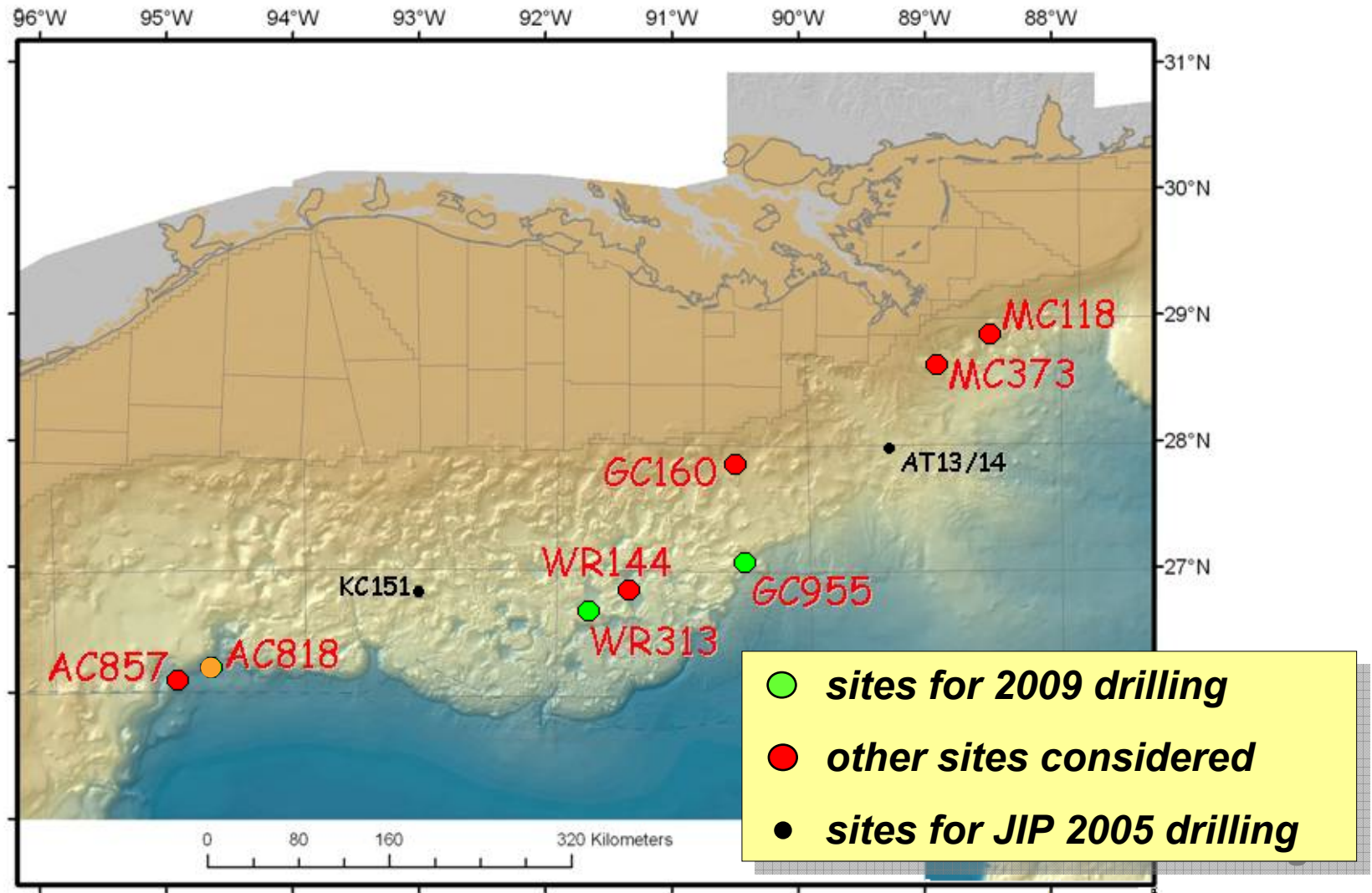
## *Late Spring, 2009*

- **Expedition design**
  - Target sand accumulations
  - multi-site expedition w/ real-time decision-making
  - 3 sites. About 6 locations permitted per site. Likely drill 3 each
- **Objectives**
  - high-grade sites w/ LWD for subsequent coring leg,
  - further calibration of seismic techniques for GH detection
  - test alternative exploration models
  - further inform MMS GoM GH assessment



# Gulf of Mexico JIP

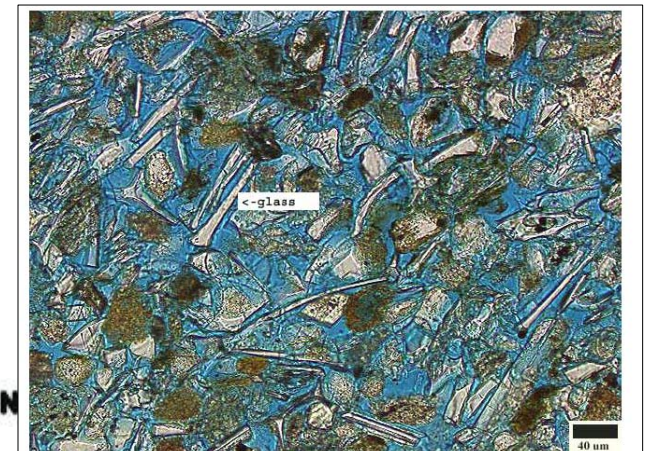
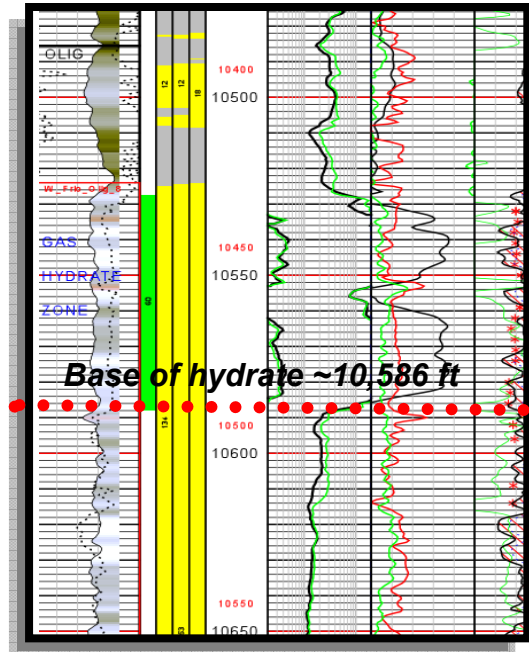
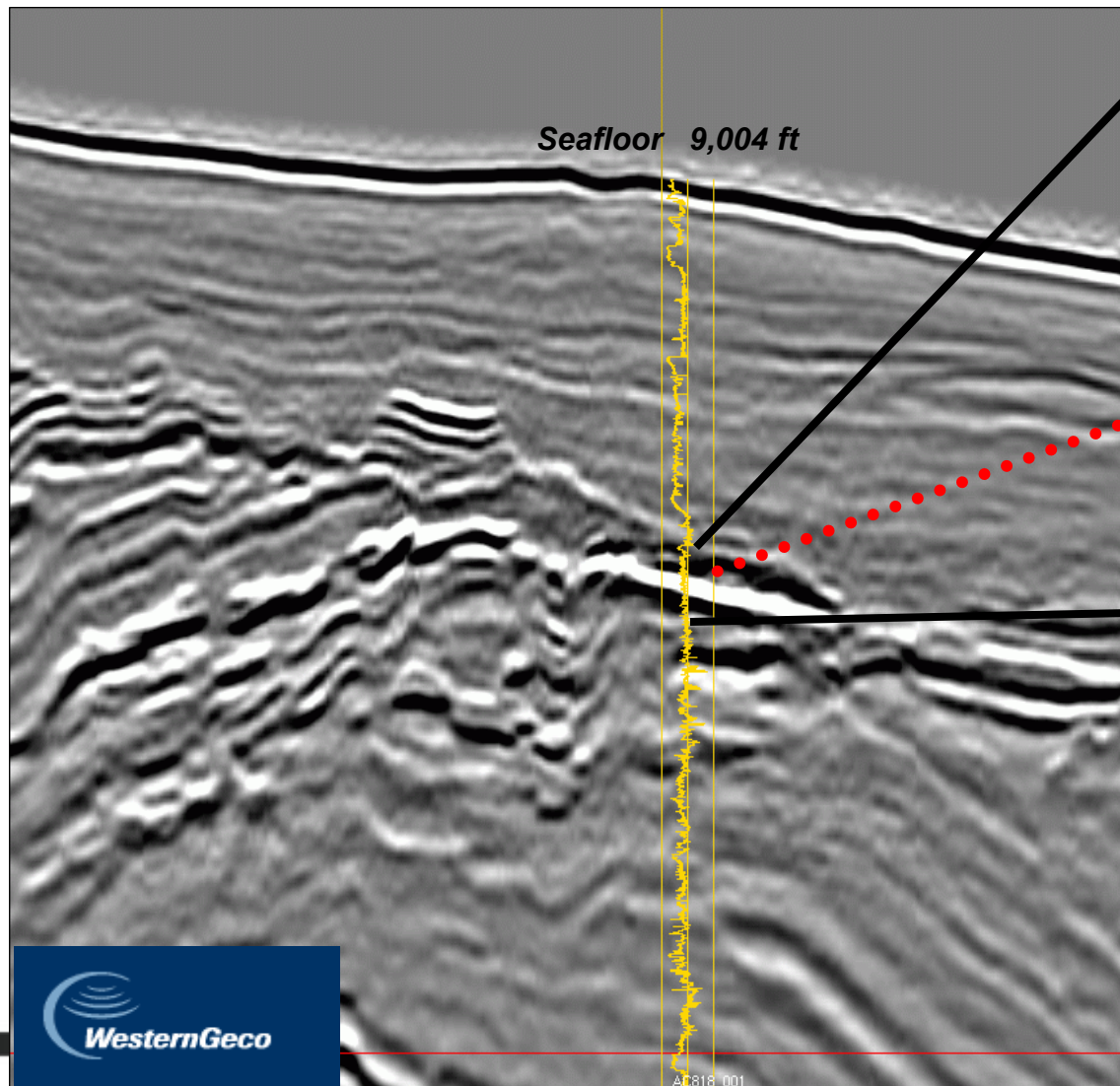
## Spring 2009 LWD Program





# Seismic-to-log Correlation

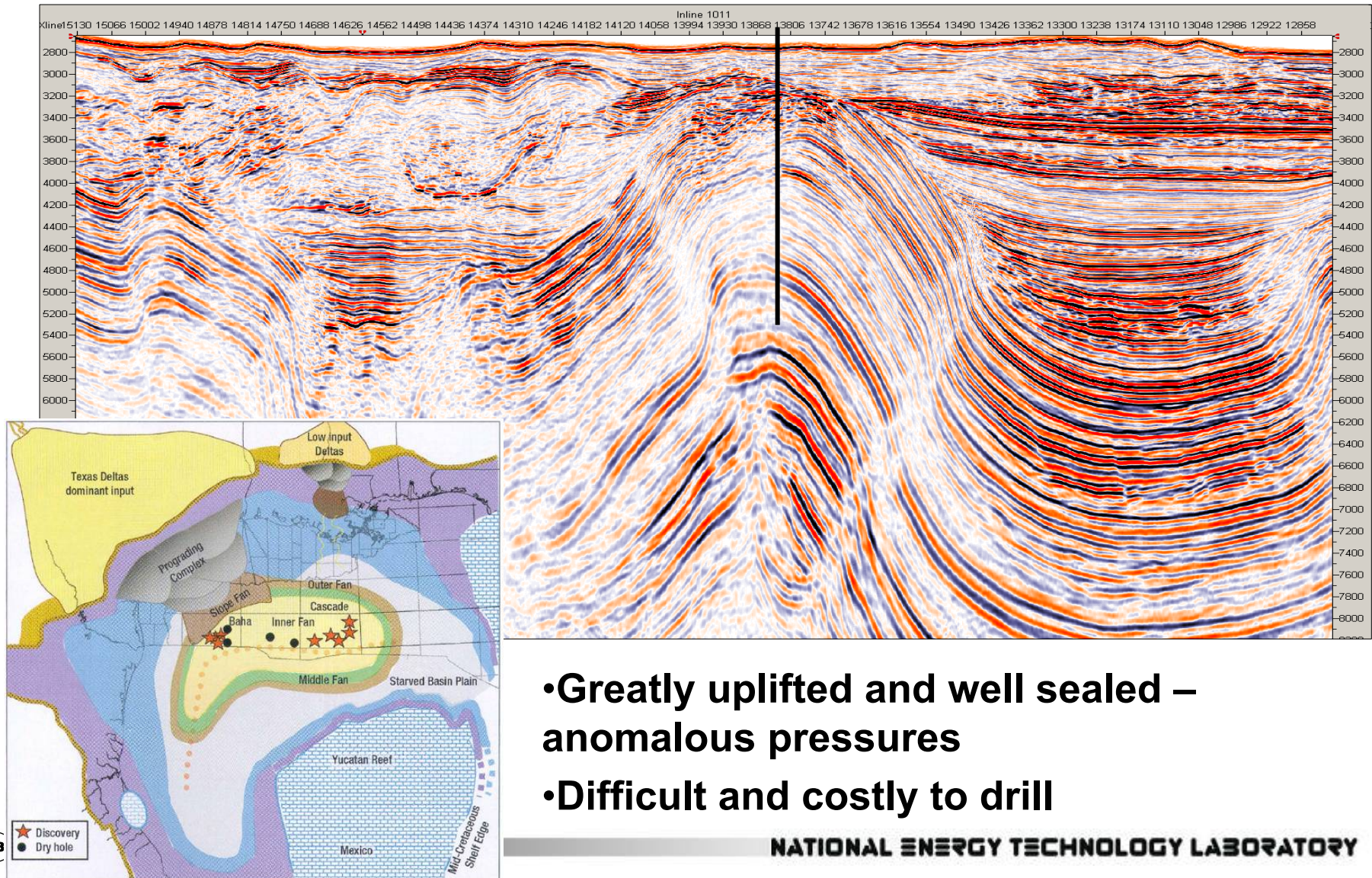
## *Alaminos Canyon 818 N-S seismic line through #1 well*





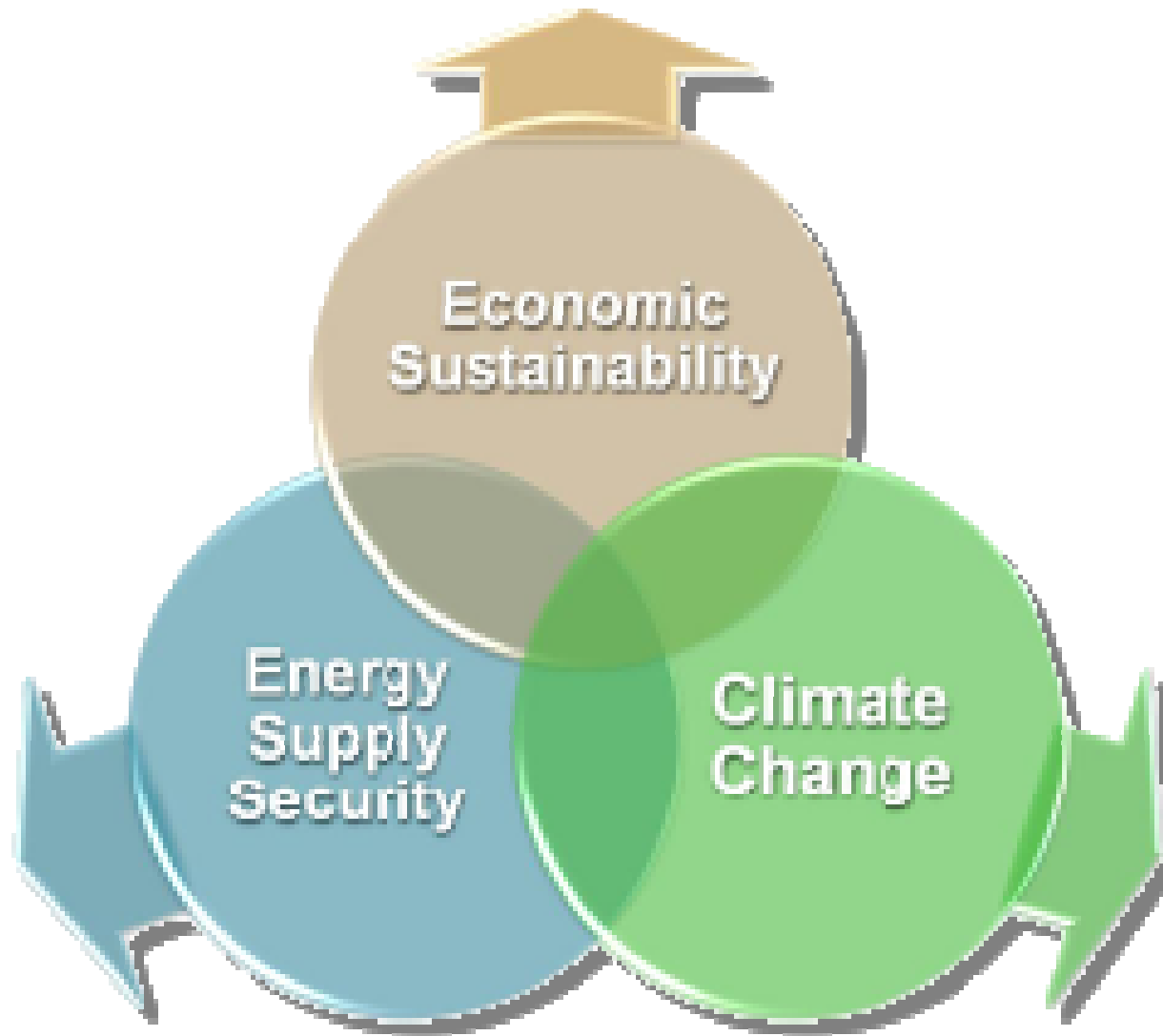
# Alaminos Canyon block 818

## *Oligocene sand uplifted by Perdido fold*





## Exploration advances inform...

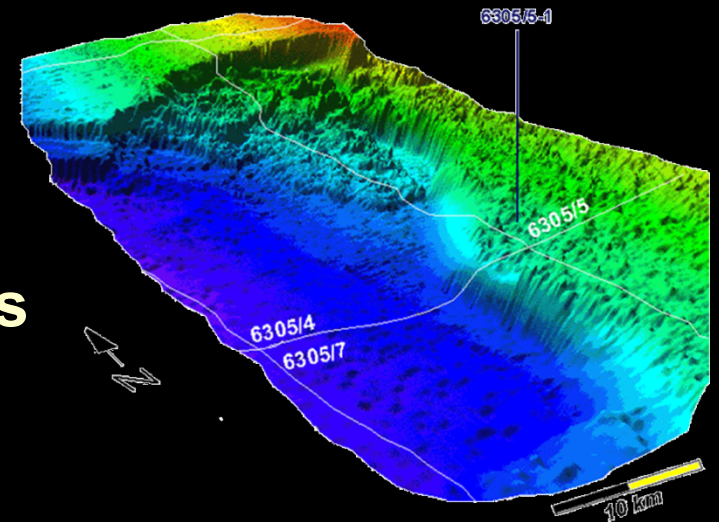


# Gas Hydrates and the Global Environment



- **Unique Chemosynthetic Communities**

- **Sea floor Failures**



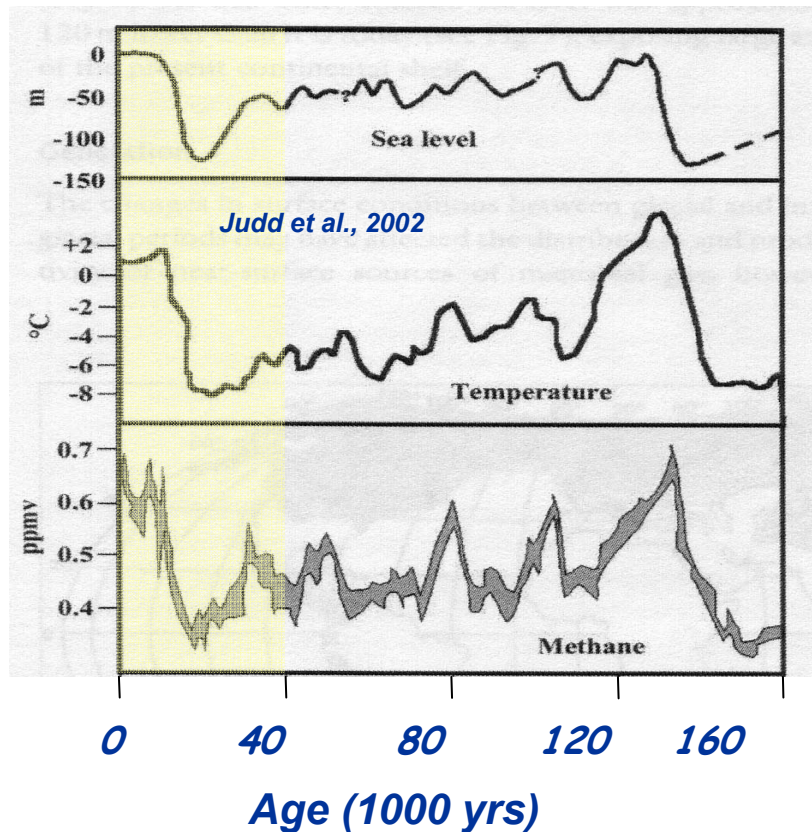
- **Global Carbon Cycling and Global Climate**



# Environmental Aspects

## *Global Climate/Global Carbon Cycling*

- Sea-level, temperature, atmospheric methane content all apparently linked.



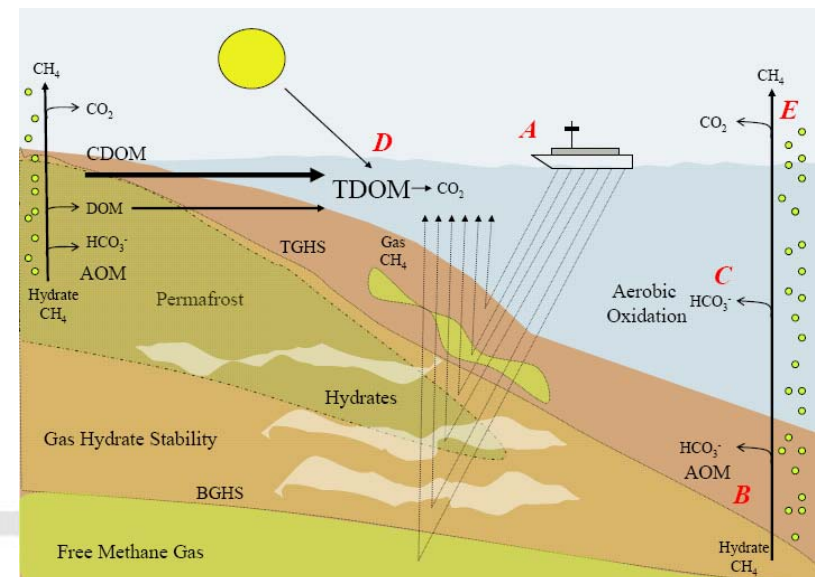
- *What natural process could produce periodic massive bursts of methane into the atmosphere? Hydrates? If hydrates, a driver or a follower?*
- *Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) – perhaps a feedback mechanism?*



Gulf of Mexico - Ian MacDonald – Texas A&M

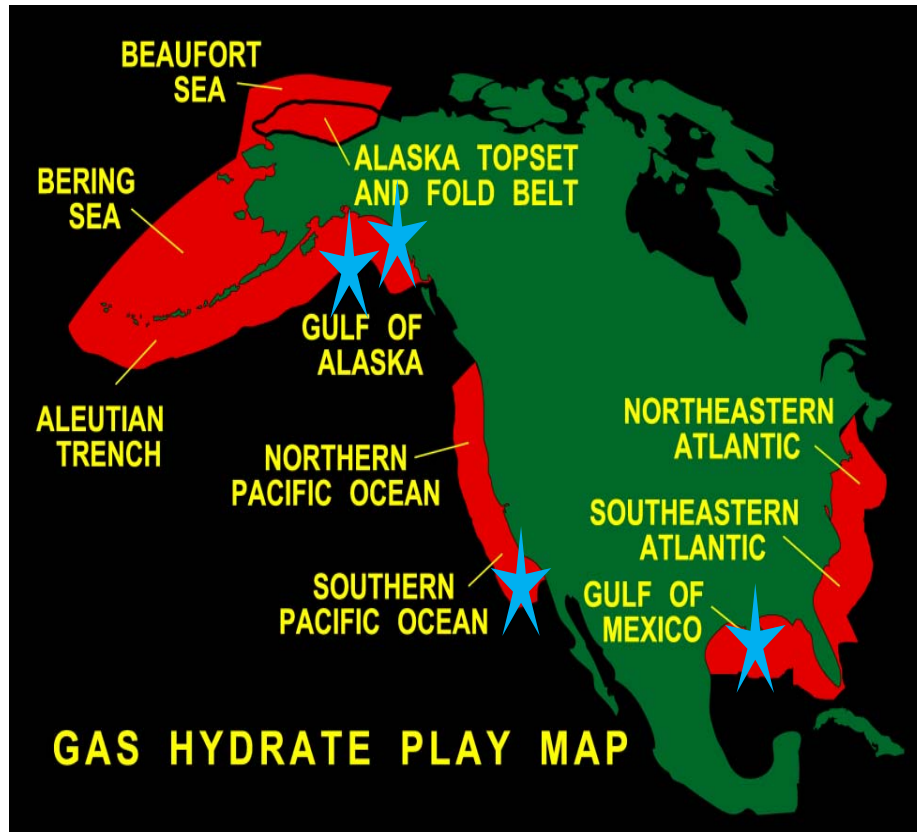
# Submerged Permafrost & Coastal Hydrates

- The Arctic Ocean is a key area for investigating the role of methane hydrates in global climate change
- Planned 2009 methane hydrate expedition in the Beaufort Sea
  - NRL-led, cross disciplinary, international effort
  - Identify and characterize submerged permafrost and coastal hydrate accumulations
  - Investigate their potential role in the rate & fate of methane fluxes through the water column





# Gas Hydrate – Environment and Global Climate



- Thermokarst Lakes (U. Alaska-Fairbanks and USGS)
- Gulf of Mexico CH<sub>4</sub> flux (Texas A&M & Scripps Institute)
- Beaufort Shelf (U. Delaware)
- California Margin (U. Cal – Santa Barbara)
- Carbon input-cycling (Rice)
- Methanogenesis (OSU)
- Sea-floor hydrate solubility (FSU)
- Isotopic records of past events (WHOI)
- Reservoir response to climate change (NETL)
- Forward climate modeling (LBNL)
- Ocean biofilter (UCSB)
- Methane mobility (UT-MIT)
- GH-sediment thermal conductivity (NETL)
- Global modeling of GH response to global climate change (U. Chicago – U. Cal – Berkeley)

# Cascadia Margin - 2008

## Goals of the expedition:

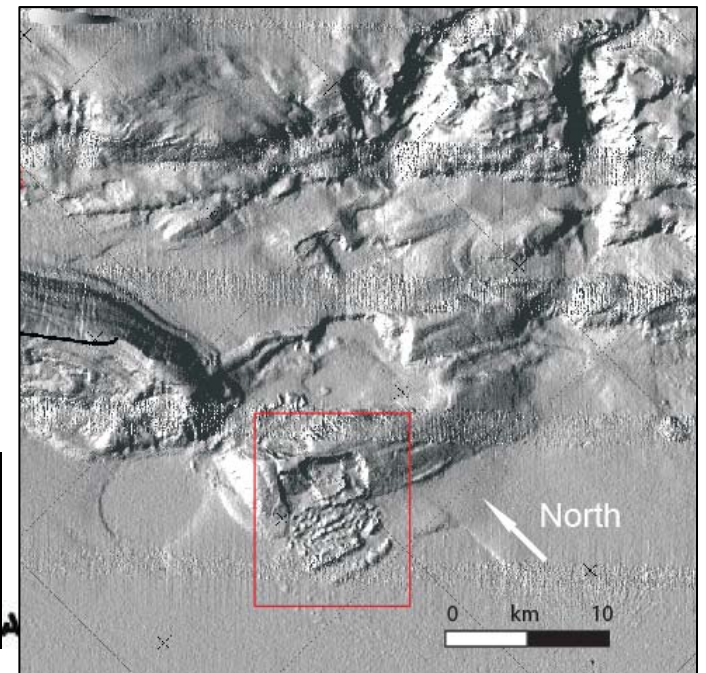
- Determine the timing and cause of submarine slumps at the frontal ridge
- Investigate the role of gas hydrate in the mechanisms controlling and responding to submarine slumping
- Determine the potential for fluid and gas venting and formation of gas hydrate in and around the slump sites

## Science Team:

- NRcan, PGC, USGS, McGill Univ., FSU, & NETL



Processing core on the *RV Tully*  
Bill Waite (USGS), Kelly Rose (NETL),  
John Pohlman (USGS), Michael Reidel  
(McGill Univ.), & Laura Lapham (FSU &  
NETL-NAS MH Graduate Fellow)

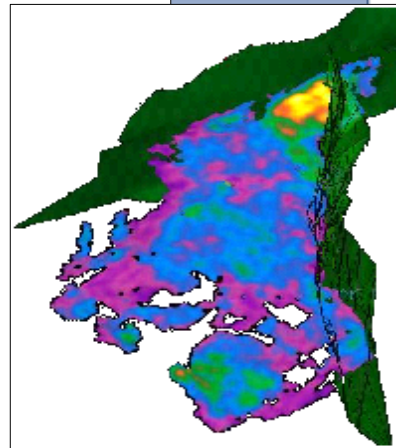
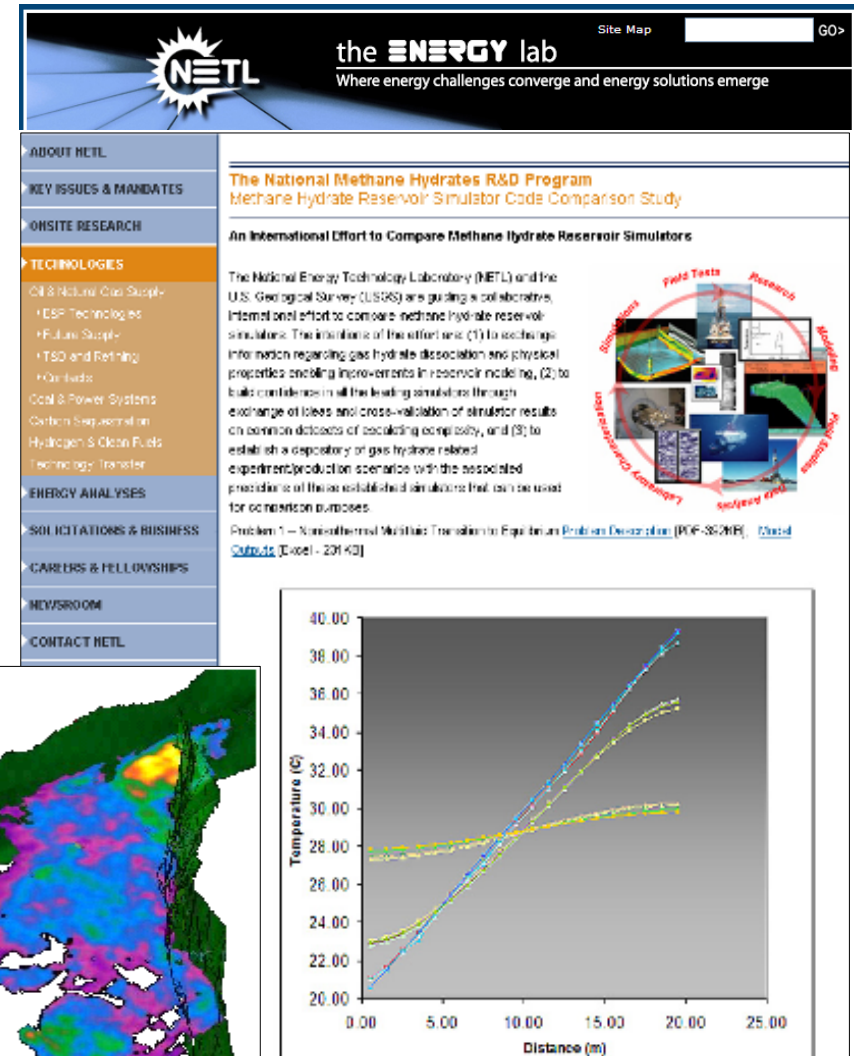




# International Code Comparison Study

## *Of five leading gas hydrate reservoir simulators*

- **International Code Comparison**
  - U.S.: (ToughFX, Stomp-HYD) LBNL, NETL, PNNL, USGS, Industry (BP)
  - Japan: (MH21)
  - Canada: (STARS)
- **All existing advanced numerical simulators**
  - Compared across common scenarios of increasing complexity
- **HydrateResSim**
  - Open-source gas hydrate reservoir simulator
  - Available through NETL website



# The National Methane Hydrates Fellowship

## *DOE-NETL in association with NAS*

- **Dedicated Fellowship Program**

- MS/PhD/Post-Doc
- 2 or 3 yrs/Competitive
- Any institution (preserve student mentor relationship)
- National Academies review
- Interagency review
- Selection (3/yr)

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

- **Three Selections thus far**

- **Monica Heintz** (UCSB) Global climate impacts
- **Evan Solomon** (Scripps) Methane generation offshore India
- **Laura Lapham** (FSU) New devices for measuring hydrate dissolution

Monica Heintz



Evan Solomon



*Laura Lapham (right) w/ USGS and NETL scientists on recent expedition off Pacific Northwest*



# More Information

KEY ISSUES & MANDATES

RESEARCH

TECHNOLOGIES

Oil & Natural Gas Supply

▶ E&P Technologies

▶ Gas Hydrates

▶ T&D and Refining

▶ Contacts

Coal & Power Systems

Carbon Sequestration

Hydrogen & Clean Fuels

Technology Transfer

ENERGY ANALYSES

SOLICITATIONS & BUSINESS

EDUCATION

NEWSROOM

CONTACT NETL

## The National Methane Hydrates R&D Program

Welcome to the information portal for the National Methane Hydrate R&D Program! Over the past eight years, research carried out under this program has resulted in significant advances in our understanding of methane hydrates, their role in nature, and their potential as a future energy resource. This success is largely due to an unprecedented level of cooperation between federal agencies, industry, national laboratories, and academic institutions.

For a quick introduction to hydrates, go directly to [All About Hydrates](#). Information on other elements of the program can be found under the remaining Key Links. [Read More](#).







### Announcements

[NETL Expands Methane Hydrates Program Portfolio](#)

The DOE-NETL Methane Hydrate Program has expanded its portfolio of research and development projects with the addition of nine projects that focus on building a strong hydrate knowledge base, increasing understanding of methane hydrate's environmental implications, and encouraging production efforts of this global storehouse of methane. By clarifying the role of hydrates in the natural environment and advancing methane hydrate as a potential energy source, the projects could help supply the United States with abundant, secure, and environmentally sound supplies of domestic natural gas far into the future.

### Key Links

- ▶ [All About Hydrates](#)
- ▶ [NETL/DOE Hydrate Projects](#)
- ▶ [Reference Shelf](#)
- ▶ [The National R&D Program](#)
- ▶ [Interagency Coordination](#)
- ▶ [Fire in the Ice Newsletter](#)
- ▶ **Major Field Studies -**
  - [AK North Slope Major Field Project](#)
  - [GOM JIP Major Field Project](#)
- ▶ [Code Comparison Study](#)
- ▶ [Graduate Fellowship Program](#)

***MH R&D Program Website***  
**[www.netl.doe.gov/methanehydrates](http://www.netl.doe.gov/methanehydrates)**

## *FITI Newsletter*

U.S. Department of Energy • Office of Fossil Energy • National Energy Technology Laboratory

# Fire in the Ice

Spring/Summer 2007 Methane Hydrate Newsletter



### CONTENTS

- China's First Gas Hydrate Expedition Successful.....1
- Barrow Gas Fields Resource Potential.....2
- Community Update on Mallic.....4
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  - Gulf of Mexico JIP Workshop
  - SPE Forum Targets Unconventional Reservoirs
  - SEG Annual Conference
- Spotlight on Research.....14
- William Shedd

### CONTACT

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 Technology Manager—Methane Hydrates Strategic Center for Natural Gas & Oil  
 304-285-4541  
[raybonwell@netl.doe.gov](mailto:raybonwell@netl.doe.gov)

### CHINA'S FIRST GAS HYDRATE EXPEDITION SUCCESSFUL

By Haiyi Zhang (CGS), Shengdong Yang (GMGS), Mengyou Wu (GMGS), Peter Schultze (Geotek Ltd.) and GMGS-I Science Team

A deep water gas hydrate investigation has been successfully completed for the Guangzhou Marine Geological Survey (GMGS), China Geological Survey (CGS) and the Ministry of Land and Resources of P. R. China. Drilling expedition GMGS-I was carried out between April 21st and June 12th 2007 in the Shenhu Area (north slope of South China Sea) from the drill ship SRV Barenat. Fugro and Geotek provided a range of specialized services including drilling, wire-line logging, in-situ temperature measurement, pore water sampling, and pressurized and non-pressurized coring. Onboard analysis of non-pressure cores included infra-red core imaging, MSCL-S core logging and pore water geochemical analysis. Pressure cores were logged under pressure in the MSCL-P and X-ray images were obtained before the cores were depressurized to quantify the gas hydrate content and measure the gas composition using gas chromatography.

Eight sites were drilled in water depths of up to 1500 m, with testing and sampling to 250 metres below the seafloor. A comprehensive program of borehole logging, coring, sampling and onboard analysis was conducted at five sites. Analysis of the data revealed the presence of thick (ranging from 10 to more than 25 meters) sediment layers rich in gas hydrate located just above the Base of Gas Hydrate Stability Zone (BGHSZ) at three of the sites. The gas hydrate was found in a disseminated form within the fine-grained foraminiferal sediments in concentrations ranging from 20 to more than 40 percent of pore volume. The gas released from the hydrate was found to be more than 99% methane. Further analysis of the data and samples, including frozen gas-hydrate-bearing sediments preserved for further analysis onshore, will be undertaken in the coming months. Further details on Expedition GMGS-I will be presented in an upcoming issue of *Fire in the Ice*.



The Research Vessel Barenat (Photo Courtesy of Fugro)



The Doyon14 Rig at Milne Pt.  
Alaska, February 2007.

**THANK YOU!!!**

*Kelly Rose*

*Geologist & Methane Hydrates Field Studies Research Lead*

*U.S. DOE/NETL*

*January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

**kelly.rose@netl.doe.gov**  
**www.netl.doe.gov/methanehydrates**